22A

MANUAL

OF

HINTS AND HELPS

FOR

CHILDREN'S DAY.

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"It is recommended that the second Sunday in June be every-where observed as Children's Day, and that wherever practicable a collection be taken in the Sunday-school in aid of the Sunday-School Fund of the Board of Education."—*Discipline of the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

"Let one day in every year be faithfully observed as Children's Day."—*Ecumenical Council of London.*

The Day was not appointed for ceremony, nor for mere entertainment, but as a means of impressing the people of our Church and the youth of our Sunday-schools with the importance of thorough education as a means of Christian usefulness, and also of connecting as directly and closely as possible our Church systems of religious and literary instruction. All the exercises of Children's Day, therefore, should aim at those great RESULTS. One present result of untold value may be to induce the children to resolve on seeking for themselves the best education possible as a means of serving God the better.—*Board of Education.*

PREFACE.

The extraordinary interest recently developed in connection with the institution and annual observance of the second Sunday in June as Children's Day has already demonstrated two great facts:

1. That such an observance is equally in harmony with the genius of an enlightened Christianity, and with the wants and tastes of the young in all parts of the world.

2. That in proportion to the rapidity with which this observance is extending, it is important to diffuse abroad correct views as to its proper design and the best modes of realizing that design.

There is a wide difference between a Children's Day observance planned with chief reference to show or mere entertainment, and one which, though equally or better adapted to entertain, is also adapted to instruct, elevate, and inspire with noble purposes as to intellectual and spiritual culture.

The object of this Manual, therefore, is, on the one hand, to guard against mistakes, both in theory and in practice, and on the other, to supply suitable material for the wise conduct or enlargement of Children's Day exercises. In view of these ends, the aid of competent writers and compilers has been secured, and a publication prepared which, at a very moderate cost, will enable persons wherever it may go to form adequate ideas of what ought to be aimed at in Christian Children's Day services, and also to have at hand the best helps toward making such services worthy of their proper design.

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MANUAL

OF

HINTS AND HELPS FOR CHILDREN'S DAY.

HINTS.

I. Hints from the Board of Education.

To Pastors, Sunday-school Superintendents, Church Committees on Education, and all persons desiring to make "Children's Day" a success.

1. Get a good idea of the origin, design, and importance of the Children's Day observance by reading the Reports of the Board of Education, and an article in the "Methodist Year-Book for 1884," giving a historic sketch of the educational enterprises of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

2. Begin early to make and announce plans for the day.

3. In all your plans aim not at show or parade, but at RESULTS of the highest and best kind, both present and future.

4. In all your arrangements practice economy as well as good taste.

5. In your preparations seek to enlist timely and general coöperation. Specially let all the children feel that *they* have something to do.

6. Do not attempt to do too much at any one service.

7. Circumstances, interpreted by a wise discretion, must govern as to the number and length of the services. Those who have experimented with two and three services are seldom afterward content to go back to one. Where pastors take the morning for an educational sermon or address, additional interest is secured by having the children present to join in appropriate singing and responsive readings.

8. Throughout the day avoid all irrelevances, or exercises equally adapted to some other day. By increased experience and the coöperation of some of the best talent in the Church, an ample supply of the best material of every kind is now available. In no case invite speeches from persons not well posted as to the objects of the day, and in hearty sympathy with them. Long, prosy, or miscellaneous talks are wholly out of place on Children's Day.

9. Do not attempt the introduction of much new music. The use of favorite and standard tunes is much to be preferred, as a rule, although the adoption of some choice new music, on which thorough preparation can be made, may add to the interest of a service. Where the whole school cannot be thoroughly drilled, let such music be rendered in solos, or by selected and competent singers.

10. Let all infant or primary class exercises be very brief, and planned as a help to variety.

11. As to floral decorations, the golden mean should be observed. The flowers with which God adorns the earth may be considered as emblems of the bloom and promise of childhood. Hence they may be fitly used to render beautiful the scenes and surroundings of Children's Day. But as earth's flowers fade and die, so they should not be displayed in excess, lest they divert attention from the more precious flowers of knowledge and wisdom, which, if cultivated in immortal minds, will bloom forever. Under right management, the use of flowers may be made auxiliary to two important objects:

1.) The enlistment of extensive coöperation.

2.) The cultivation of a benevolent spirit. The latter object is aimed at when bouquets, after having served their proper object in the church, are sent as tokens of kindness to the sick and the poor. On this plan our Children's Day has already inaugurated the most extensive floral mission known to history. When such objects are every-where practicable, it seems wrong to encourage those displays of flowers which exhaust or greatly diminish the benevolent proceeds of the day, while chiefly contributing to the gratification of selfish feelings.

12. Let a few, but *only* a few, singing birds be present. Too many are sure to distract attention and confuse speakers, thus defeating important objects.

13. As a leading object of the Children's Day observance is to furnish an opportunity for securing, both from the children and their friends, a handsome OFFERING for the Children's Educational Fund, ample time should be taken for the *collection.* What is probably still more important is that preparation should be made for it in advance by explaining its objects and awakening interest in its behalf. All should be reminded that it is only once a year that they have an opportunity of giving to *this* object, and also that their efforts will be brought into comparison with those of other Sunday-schools and congregations throughout the Church. Whenever practicable it will be well to allot a week or two in advance within which they may solicit money to be paid in on Children's Day. In such cases, if not always, it will be well to have each class report and send up its own amount to be also announced by the secretary or treasurer of the Sunday-school. But, besides the class collections, all persons present should be invited to contribute liberally through collectors chosen from the Sunday-school and instructed to offer all an opportunity to give or subscribe.

14. Let all the exercises of the day be rendered with promptness and spirit. In the responsive readings the LEADER may either be the pastor or the Sunday-school superintendent, or both in turn, as they may arrange between themselves. As a rule, it will be best to have the responses given by both the teachers and the scholars of *the Sunday-school in concert.* But for variety, leaders may, if thought best, occasionally alternate the responses between the different classes or sections of the school. When in the printed programmes of the Board of Education questions are allotted to the Sunday-school or congregation, it will be seen to be not merely for the sake of variety, but for the sake of securing distinctly uttered and *impressive* answers. Hence, leaders, as well as teachers and scholars, should come prepared to render their parts effectively.

15. Although a given day is appointed by the Church for the Children's Day observance, yet variations from that particular day, for sufficient reasons, are not

only allowed, but recommended. It is far better to keep a rule in its spirit than to defeat its object by a too rigid adherence to its letter. Hence, as weather is always more or less uncertain, it is well to have all understand in advance the conditions of possible postponement *or* that no postponement will be made.

16. In cases of serious interferences with expectations and results on account of bad weather, it has been found well to repeat the exercises or a portion of them, or to supplement the results of the "Day" by a concert. When Christian faith and zeal are put to providential tests, happy are those who are not found wanting.

17. In a great majority of cases, responsive readings are found to serve as the most interesting and successful mode of impressing, not only Scripture truth, but other important lessons, on the minds of those who attend Children's Day services. But sometimes it is desired to change that mode for the sake of brevity, by arranging to have some of the lessons recited by impressive speakers and, perhaps, alternated in different parts of the assembly. The success of such variations will always depend greatly on the capacity of speakers and the thoroughness of their preparation. To indicate a suitable manner of introducing them, a few examples of addresses are supplied in the department of helps, which are designed to convey, in a direct form, some of the lessons that, for more general use in the programme, are given in the form of questions and answers. Those addresses will suggest how similar ones can be prepared in coming years with appropriate variations as to statistics.

18. By all means let the regular lesson of the Sunday-school be *postponed* on Children's Day—the time to be made up on the review Sunday of the quarter. On that plan all the lessons will be studied in course, and the children allowed to enjoy and profit by *their own* day without overcrowding and fatigue.

II. Hints from Pastors.

Many valuable hints from pastors and superintendents are embodied in the correspondence hitherto published in the annual Reports of the Board of Education and in the Manual of the M. E. Church. But in addition to all that has been published elsewhere, the following extracts of letters will be found specially suggestive. They illustrate great possible variety of execution in harmony with unity of purpose, and also effective modes of adaptation to peculiar circumstances :

Montclair, N. J.

Our observance of Children's Day was strictly along the line suggested by the Discipline.

From beginning to end the exercises were designed to emphasize the necessity and to proclaim the possibility of Christian education for all the children and youth committed to our care. And from whatever point of view our observance of the day may be considered, I think it may be said to have been thoroughly successful.

We used the children's letter and programme which were furnished by the Board, and attempted no emendation.

Two features of our own, being simple and striking object-lessons upon the moral and financial aspects of the day, may be worth mentioning. The proper collection was carefully taken among the classes in the afternoon. In the evening the classes were called and their respective amounts were sent up to the desk. With each amount was sent a tasteful bouquet of flowers, and the bouquets were laid upon the borders of a frame which extended across the wall at the rear of the pulpit platform. Certain classes also sent up letters which were cut out of red card-board, and

these were fixed in order upon the face of the frame until the motto "Educational Fund" was spelled out.

EDUCATIONAL FUND.

This was our superintendent's idea, and its execution, with a basket collection, formed the closing exercises. The receipts, thus gathered, were $53. The other feature was the pastor's idea. At the place appointed in the programme for his address he appeared upon the platform, holding in his hand a dull, but finely-tempered, ax, and with it, as an illustration, he wielded some remarks upon the subject of Christian education which were not without *edge*.

JOHN CRAWFORD.

NINETEENTH STREET CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, Pa.

If you would get out a programme for the three services it would meet the necessities of those who make every service for the children, as I did. Those who might not wish the other service could let it alone, but hundreds of dollars would be saved. Suppose you try this plan next year. I think all parties would be pleased, and the case fully met. I merely suggest. Our Children's Day was a wonderful success, and the children look forward to the next occasion with great pleasure. I ask all to bring plants, cut flowers, designs, etc. I had a florist send twenty dollars' worth of plants and exotics. This was the rental value. *I paid for these out of private funds.* But the poorest of the poor take part by bringing a plant or a bunch of cut flowers.

Children's Day will grow in favor all the time.

S. W. THOMAS.

FRANKFORD, PHILADELPHIA, Pa.

Children's Day was a blessed festival. The church was beautifully decorated by the ladies with ferns and flowers, without the outlay of a cent. The collection is double that of last year.

W. H. SWINDELLS.

GIRARDVILLE, Pa.

Our Children's Day service was a great success. We had never known Children's Day in this charge—actually the people, most of them, had never heard of it. I explained it. They thought the school could not afford to give their collection up, as it was very poor. I at once proposed to give them their usual or average collection, if they would turn in and help me celebrate. They agreed. It was stated that their average collection was $3. I stirred up the whole town. The young people rallied. The church was handsomely decorated. A great crowd was present. We used your programme, adding two short recitatations and an address by myself.

I made a brief and simple statement—explanatory; then had the baskets passed. The result was $19 44—the largest mere basket collection ever taken in the church. I paid all the expenses and have left a round $15 for you! Little enough, to be sure, but very much compared with nothing. The $15 is the smallest part of the profits, however. That is the present profit to the Board of Education, but there is an aspect of the case that is a *prospect* for the school and for the Board.

P. S. MERRILL.

PIERCE, Stark Co., Ohio.

By programmes inclosed you will see our plan of combining Children's Day exercises with other Sunday-school work, thereby making a general gathering of the people. This works well in our country villages. I began May 20. Held two services Sunday, June 10, at two appointments, eight miles distant; both a fine success. Yesterday we had a reunion of three adjacent Sunday-schools, and went through our programme in concert. It was an unparalleled success. It is thus possible, by special attention and hard work, to have Children's Day services at each appointment of a large circuit. Our collections rise above last year nearly 300 per cent. The programme worked out nicely. We abridged it when combined with other exercises.

G. F. OLIVER.

MOUNT VERNON, Ohio.

We *illuminated* your excellent leaf somewhat by interspersing *symbol exercises*, by twelve classes, using the *matter* of your service, which we divided into twelve sections and gave to as many classes to be committed to memory.

The symbols, star, crown, anchor, sickle, ladder, etc., with suitable brief exercises accompanying, were arranged in cruciform design on the altar, and added significance and beauty to

the floral display. After three symbols, one of the subjects of the leaf was recited by the classes that had committed it to memory. Music and exercises by the primary class—eighty in number—were interspersed, and all closed with reception of children in full membership from the children's class. ELVERO PERSONS.

CAREY, Ohio.

The order of exercises worked well. I devised the following way for taking the collection. Having made two slender pine ladders, they were united at the top, placed on the platform, and decorated on the sides and rounds with evergreens and flowers. There were two extra rounds for the congregation, and then one for each of the classes. Bird-cages were suspended on the ladders, and having prepared baskets, one for each class, by getting berry-baskets at the grocery—made of paper, such as they give away, these were covered on the outside with gilt paper, and lined within with flowers. A basket and an envelope were marked for each class. In the latter the collection was placed, and then laid in the basket. At stated places in the programme, always during singing, these baskets were brought forward, and with hooks of wire placed on the ladder. A collection from the congregation was taken, and in two separate baskets placed on the ladder. The secretary took note of each envelope's amount, and reported at the close of the exercises the full amount. Though our amount is small, it is over 100 per cent. above last year for this place. So we think it is healthy growth. C. W. TANEYHILL.

BAKERSVILLE, Ohio.

I find that Children's Day and missionary concerts, while of great value in the direction of their specific lines of work, greatly react upon the schools in increased attractiveness and interest, and thus result in building up the schools themselves. What can we do in any direction in God's cause that he will not doubly repay? F. G. M'CAULEY.

COSHOCTON, Ohio.

After seven successive Children's Days, in as many years, I can assure you they are a blessing to every body. J. H. CONKLE.

FORT WAYNE, Ind.

My delay in sending Children's Day collection calls for a little explanation. The evening was very rainy, so that our collection was not what we expected. It was a little over $6, but some expense for music and decorations had to be met, leaving but a small balance. So we gave a *supplemental concert* last night to make up for deficiencies. We now send you $6, which can properly be credited to *Children's Day.* J. K. WALTS.

UTICA, Ind.

I forward you nearly three times as much money this year as last, as a result of the observance of Children's Day. I have three appointments on my charge, in a triangular location. Three miles' travel will reach either of the two from any given one. As last year, we united at one. The day was rainy, but the attendance was good, yet would have been nearly double if the weather had been fair, and the collection much larger. We recommend this plan for circuits as one that will obtain the best results for Children's Day. Good was done in more ways than one. W. W. REYNOLDS.

NORTHPORT, Wis.

Our Children's Day service was a grand success. We used the service you sent us, and took a good collection for so small a place. But the audience called for a repetition of the service. We accordingly gave it Monday night, and doubled our collection. We will vote for Children's Day next year with both hands. C. W. F. NELSON.

BARTON, Miss.

We raised on Children's Day $2 75, but the people were not willing to send till the amount was raised to $5. So they added every Sunday a little till they made up $5, this notwithstanding they have been building a new church and paying for it. D. D. GOODWIN.

PRAIRIEVILLE, Mich.

I think that our largely increased amount over last year is due to the fact that a great revival has swept over the charge. Another cause may be found in the fact that we talked about Children's Day a great deal in the Sunday-school for several weeks before the day arrived, and so had the people quite enthusiastic. We also prepared carefully, and were able to do the exercises well. We have already announced for next Children's Day. W. R. CLANCY.

III. Hints from Superintendents.

Shelton, Conn.

Inclosed find check for $27. This is an offering from a small charge organized last September; school averages about 120. This *cause* and object to which you have invited us to give lies near to my heart; and personally I should have been only too glad to have responded before if I had had an opportunity. I am seeking to do what I can for Jesus. You ask for approval of programme, also as to method adopted, etc., in using it. I think your Order of Service well gotten up, short, interesting, and right to the point, *sharp*, the music good, infant class part excellent; all of which our school entered into with spirit. As our mission is in its infancy, and collections having been frequent, and amounts *needed liberal*, I felt some fear of what would be the result of our *collection*. But I laid it before the Lord, and he prompted me to make this proposition to the school last Sabbath, "That each and every class that would raise 50 cents or over I would *double their collection*." They took hold, and to-day, with good-natured smiles and remarks to one another that they "would make the superintendent sweat for it," they made up their envelopes in amounts from 38 cents to $3 50. When I found their liberal spirit my heart was so glad I could have wished that they had raised $50; and, poor as I am, I would have as happily given it as the small amount of what their collection did compel me to do. We provided the scholars in each class with a *small* envelope, on which they wrote their name and amount, and their teacher inclosed same in large envelope, writing amount on outside. This was brought up by a scholar of the class, repeating a suitable passage. After this the boxes were passed and more taken from visitors, with thanks for the opportunity of giving and *awaiting another*.

F. W. Hoyt, *Superintendent.*

Williamsport, Pa.

Our music usually consists of those pieces with which the school is most familiar, except the opening piece, which is selected because of its appropriateness. We always have the infant school sing by themselves three, four, or more pieces which they have learned. About three weeks before Children's Day our chorister goes through the school and church and selects about thirty people who can sing, and drills them two or threee times a week until they are ready to sing a large number of pieces, and from these pieces thus practiced he selects those with which the school is familiar, and the crowd and the occasion give the inspiration, and they sing them like angels. I would say: Issue a manual, entitled "Hints of How to Observe Children's Day."

1. Decorations.—We use *spruce* or hemlock to tie in wreaths, nail on crosses, etc. We gather a large quantity of ferns, put them in rustic baskets, putting in lilies and other potted flowers, also using laurel and other wild flowers, and bouquets in vases properly arranged. And all the out flowers ALL the children bring by one o'clock Saturday.

2. In regard to a Programme.—We have three cardinal rules to determine what shall go in and what shall be excluded. 1.) It must be appropriate to the day—the Lord's Day. 2.) It must be appropriate to the occasion—Children's Day. 3.) It must be appropriate to the place—the house of God. We reject every thing that does not have a spiritual lesson and have a tendency to do good. We nearly always have a short memorial essay or poem, generally an oration and two essays. The pastor preaches in the morning. At two o'clock P. M., the first part of the programme of the children comes; in the evening, the second part.

Let us do all we can to win souls for the Master, every thing that is honorable and in harmony with the spirit of our beloved Gospel.

H. T. Ames.

Gainesville, Fla.

I suggest that the Order of Services for another year be divided into three parts: Morning, Afternoon, and Evening; and that the morning or afternoon, or a part of either, be planned for the little children, and leaving the closing of the day's services to the larger scholars.

L. E. Chestnut.

Baltimore, Md.

Our pastor, on leaving for Mountain Lake Park, requested me to give you an idea of the effect your Children's Day exercise had on us. It had a remarkably good effect. It was not only instructive, but interesting, from the fact that every one, from pastor to the smallest child in the school, took part in it, thereby receiving the knowledge it contained, as far as they were old enough to comprehend it. I believe that if similar instructive exercises could be introduced into

every Sunday-school in our country, they would be the means of not only imparting to the thousands who attend our schools, who never heard of the Board of Education, the knowledge of its grand object, but bring to your aid thousands of dollars which you would not otherwise get. CHAS. M. TALBOT, *Superintendent of Appold M. E. Sunday-school.*

PITTSBURG, Pa.

VESTIGIA NULLA RETRORSUM.

The superintendent of the Emory M. E. Sabbath-school takes this method of congratulating the school on the success attending their celebration of Children's Day, Sunday, June 10, 1883. The thoroughness of the preparation of the responsive service, the excellence of the singing, the interesting exercises by the infant class, the spirit of the recitations, and, above all things, the amount of the collection for educational purposes—all mark the day as one to be remembered by our school.

As commemorative of that day, and as an incentive to future efforts, this little souvenir is offered, with the earnest hope that the success of the past may be the incentive and promise to greater achievements in the future. JOS. D. WEEKS, *Superintendent.*

NOTE.—The above was printed on a beautifully engraved card, and passed out to the several members of the school in a neat envelope.

CHRIST CHURCH, PITTSBURG, Pa.

Previous to this year our school paid but little attention to Children's Day. When I was called to the superintendent's desk, last April, I determined that Christ Church Sunday-school should take its proper place in the Children's Day collection. With that end in view I immediately commenced preparation for it. Financially you know the result—$101, against about $13 the previous year. Above and beyond the financial success, the members of the church and school said it was one of the grandest and most pleasant days the school had ever enjoyed.

Our plan was this: We used your printed service in place of the morning regular sermon service. Our pastor delivered a most beautiful and touching talk on "Why Flowers are like Children." We had the altar beautifully decorated and full of flowers and plants, and then impressed it upon the members of the school to bring flowers, that each one should have something, were it only a bud or leaf, and at the proper time had the school by classes present them.

Owing to the wonderful success of this effort I don't think I shall change the programme much for the coming year, but will be governed much by your suggestions. I would strongly recommend the substitution of Children's Day service for the regular morning service, as it enables the parents and friends to enjoy a rare treat, besides giving to the children an idea of the great importance of their day.

Our school is not large in numbers, but you can rely on us for an earnest effort on Children's Day, 1884. LEE S. SMITH, *Superintendent.*

REMARK.—The church above represented sent in an additional collection for our general fund of $74 25, making its aggregate offering in behalf of Connectional Education $175 25.

The great lesson taught by all the foregoing letters and extracts is that wherever pastors and superintendents take a lively personal interest in Children's Day, success, in an ever-increasing ratio, is morally certain, bringing with it present encouragement in many forms, and creating promise of extended and lasting good in the future.

IV. HINTS ON DECORATIONS.

Judging from our observations and correspondence we think but few hints are needed on this subject, except in the line of restraint and caution. Nevertheless, as it is important to have whatever is done in this line governed by good taste and a just reference to economy, we subjoin the following suggestions of valued correspondents, at the same time remarking emphatically that a few select floral ornaments are far more in keeping with the objects of Children's Day than any undue profusion or costly display.

A writer in "The Christian Advocate" reported the following:

The most suggestive and beautiful church decoration that I have seen was at Lancaster, Ohio, on Children's Day. It consisted of floral representations of biblical symbols. Each class of the Sunday-school chose a symbol and prepared their floral representation of it and brought it to the church on Sunday morning, fresh and beautiful, where they were all arranged in order by a committee. Prominent among them were the cross, crown, anchor, star, Jacob's ladder, harp, shield, bow of promise, a floral Bible; among other beautiful designs not purely of the biblical symbolism, as the triangle, representing faith, hope, and charity, a sickle, and other beautiful and instructive figures. There might have been added the heart, the sword, helmet, breastplate, sandals, (shod with a preparation of the Gospel,) and other symbols of which the Scriptures abound.

From Rev. George Leidy, Central Pennsylvania Conference:

The service may be used *with or without emblems.* If with them, the following will be appropriate:

CHILDHOOD: { *A White Floral Cross.* / *Innocence and Faith of Childhood.*
YOUTH: *A Wreath of Flowers.*
MANHOOD: *A Wreath of Green Leaves.*
AGE: *A Wreath of Green and Fading Leaves and Flowers.*
DEATH: *A Wreath of Faded Leaves.*
THE FUTURE: *A Wreath of Evergreen.*

Arrange to hang the emblems on the wall, *one outside the other.* The white cross will then form the center. It should be about twelve inches long. The wreaths must be unyielding. Each speaker brings forward his emblem and holds it during his address, when it is hung in its place. The floral offerings of the classes may be arranged in the beginning to suit your taste.

From Rev. W. C. Wilbor, Genesee Conference:

It was a happy thought that came into some one's mind to give a whole Sunday once every year to the children. The readiness with which this suggestion has been acted upon by most of the leading denominations proves that the Church was ready for this new idea. It is fortunate, too, that the educational work of the Churches has in most cases become identified with this anniversary. Surely no better time in all the year could have been chosen for this day than the brightest Sunday in June, the children's month, when the days are the longest, the skies bluest, the grass greenest, the song-birds noisiest, and the flowers most abundant. It is in harmony with the spirit of the day and place to adorn the sanctuary with flowers, not only on Children's Day, but also on any Sunday in the year. He who said, "Consider the lilies," cannot be displeased if their presence in his holy temple suggests these words to his people as they engage in prayer and praise. Impure thoughts or unholy imaginations have never been prompted by the beauty or perfume of flowers. On Children's Day, of all others, the church should be made beautiful with floral decorations. This can be easily accomplished if on the Sunday previous the boys and girls and young people are commissioned to go into the woods and fields on Saturday and gather all that nature, in her June wealth, can offer to make the church attractive. Each flower bed, too, can be laid under contribution for this purpose. It will be well for the boys to gather a wagon-load of bright green moss, in as large sheets as possible. Then let all bring together treasures at the church on Saturday afternoon before Children's Sunday.

The ingenuity and skill of floral committees will furnish variety and pleasing effect in arrangement. One or two designs may be suggested: 1. A bank of moss can be easily constructed by nailing thin boards, as wide as possible, together upon two long cleats, thus making a smooth, flat surface. The proportion should be about twelve feet long by five feet high in the center. The top should be a gracefully-curved line. Upon this surface large sheets of moss can be nailed with black carpet tacks, till the whole is covered. Sprinkle the moss thoroughly before the bank is put in place. It may properly stand on the floor in front of the altar, or at the back of the pulpit platform, leaning against the wall. Upon this green velvet screen it will be very easy to form the letters of any motto or legend by using white roses or field daisies with short stems. They will readily stay in place when the stems are stuck into the moss. The flowers should be kept with their stems in water till an hour or two before the concert, when they can be placed in position on the moss. 2. Another design, a little more difficult, but beautiful in its effect, can be made as follows: Secure at the hardware store eight empty nail kegs, four of which will be for each column of an

arch. A light iron rod running through the center will securely bolt them together; a square board should be nailed to the bottom of each column, through the corners of which they may be nailed to the floor of the platform. Next secure at a cooper shop two bunches of soaked barrel hoops, before they have been bent. These, after separation, can be formed into an arch one foot in width and depth by nailing strips one foot apart on all four surfaces. Be careful to secure a graceful form, and make the arch so that when it rests upon the pillars they will be seven feet apart. When the wood-work is completed cover the columns with large sheets of moss, using tack nails, and upon the thin board surface of the front and under side of the arch nail sheets of moss. The top of the arch can be thatched with long grass. When all is ready sprinkle the moss, place the columns in position on the platform, and nail them securely to the floor. Then lift the arch to its place, so that its edges will rest two or three inches on the columns, and then to finish the effect place a gilded bird-cage on the top of each column and suspend a basket of flowers from the center of the arch. The columns and arch may be adorned with mottoes in silver and gilt letters, and studded with peonies, roses, and other flowers. This may seem to the reader too elaborate, but the wood-work can be done by two smart young men in half a day, and many nimble fingers will in a short time put the moss and flowers in place. The use of baskets of flowers, crocks of ferns, and urns, it is unnecessary to suggest.—*The Concert Quarterly.*

From Rev. D. J. Holmes, Wisconsin Conference:

Decoration of the Cross.—Let a simple cross, made out of narrow boards, the standard two feet high, bored with holes, be erected in front of the altar, and covered with red tissue paper punctured above the holes. Then at the proper time, while singing "In the cross of Christ I glory," or some other suitable hymn, let the school march up by classes and insert a bouquet of the proper size. The effect is impressive, and at the close there stands out a striking floral emblem of our devotion to the Christian religion.

From Rev. C. W. Taneyhill, Central Ohio Conference:

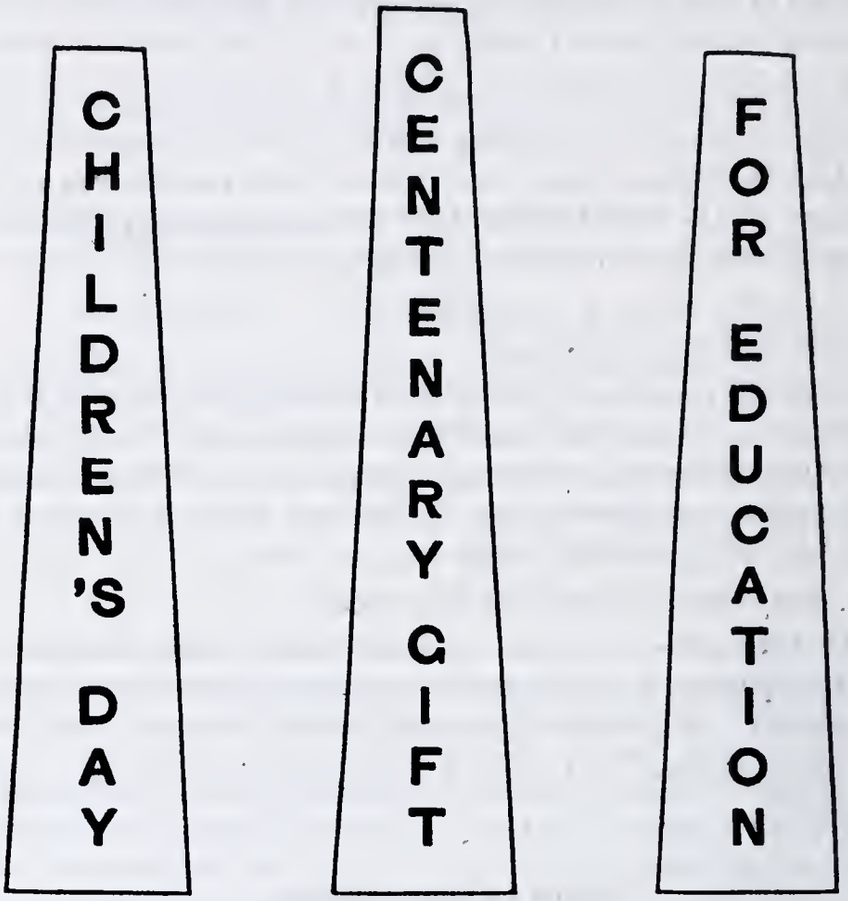
A Floral Basket Exercise.—Construct two light ladders, eight feet high, fifteen inches wide at bottom, and eight inches at top, fasten at top together, spread at bottom and fasten four feet apart. Decorate with house plants at foot and twining vines and flowers about the rounds and sides of the ladders. With baskets (one for each class) decorated with evergreens and flowers, having a space left in the center for the contribution, as the questions are asked let the response be given by a representative from the class, who with a little hook fastens a basket on the lower round of one of the ladders, and so on until all the baskets have been placed in position upon the rounds of the ladders. The parts for pastor, chorister, and Sunday-school superintendent can be carried out by having a board fastened to the top of the ladders, where the Bible, Hymnal, and Discipline can be placed. The order of exercises would be the same as with the pyramid, except that the baskets take the place of block-boxes. Baskets of pasteboard can be made or procured very easily, and will look beautiful with the flower decorations.

Plan for a Floral Pyramid or Obelisk.—Construct twelve boxes of light wood, decreasing in size in regular order from the base, which should not be less than fourteen inches square and five inches deep, to the last one or top box, which should not be more than five inches on each side and of like depth as the first, fasten a strip or cleat on two sides, and a half inch from top edge, of the inside of each box, for the box just above to rest evenly and securely upon when set in. These twelve boxes will, when placed one within the other, form the wood-work of the structure. Bore holes in the sides of the boxes a little distance from the outer edges, not larger than half an inch in diameter, for the flowers to be placed in when formed into bouquets. If it is desired to use letters to form monograms on the sides, mark the space for each letter desired on the side of the boxes, beginning from the top. See that the holes for the bouquets do not cover the space of your letter. Have the bouquets all made at the same place. See that there be a sufficient number, and also of the required size. On the day of the exercise let the boxes be decorated by placing the bouquets and letters in their places in each box by the class that is to use it. After the decorations are in place take the "Children's Day Centenary Gift for Education," and let each class, or two classes if need be, put the money in the box, and have all ready before the time for the box to be taken to the platform. The pyramid can be builded at the close of the order of exercises. It is well to have two of the boxes passed to the congregation for their offerings; this is best done with boxes Nos. 11 and 12.

A More Simple Way.—Make a pyramid of *boards*, fourteen inches at the base, three inches at the top. Mark on the sides the spaces for the letters, bore holes from the letters to the outer

edges of the pyramid, so that when the bouquets are placed in these half-inch holes the entire surface of board will be covered with the flowers and the letters forming the sentences. Cover the boards, after the holes are made, with plain white paper; blank newspaper is good, or wall paper with the wrong side outward. As the bouquets are brought forward, let one person place them in the holes in the wood, beginning at the bottom and building upward. A slight pressing of the forefinger will tell just where the bouquets may be placed.

To Make the Letters.—Take pasteboard boxes, or pasteboard in the card, cut into strips to the *width* you may want the *length* of the letters. Cut now into blocks, about in the proportion of width two and a half inches for four inches in length. For five inches long make three inches



wide. The measuring unit in width of side is the letter "I," which should be one third the width of the block. This is called the "block letter," and is the most easily made and shows better than any other for all distances. After the letter is cut out it can be covered with gilt paper or cotton batting. The letters may be fastened by means of hook and eye or a hook and loop. Care should be taken that they are numbered, so as to know their position, or an awkward blunder in spelling will take place. It is best to begin to place the letters on the pyramid from the base, as the expectation is kept up to find what is going to be spelled as the letters are arranged one above the other; of course, this will be spelling the words backward until completed.

From J. D. Felter, Greenpoint, L. I.:

Novel and interesting services were held, several years ago, on Children's Day, in the First M. E. Sunday-school of Greenpoint, L. I. In the morning Dr. J. M. Freeman delivered a sermon so simple as to be understood by an infant-class scholar, and so instructive as to edify the oldest saint.

The afternoon service was unique. Each class, three weeks previously, had selected a passage of Scripture and prepared an emblem illustrating the passage. All the emblems were kept out of sight, and each class was ignorant of all passages and emblems save their own. Duplication was avoided by all reporting to the pastor. At the proper time the secretary called class No. 1. The representative of the class, being in readiness, brought out the emblem and placed it in the hands of the pastor, who was standing in the altar. Then class No. 1 stood up and, in concert, repeated their selected passage. The pastor then placed the emblem on the platform behind the altar. Then class No. 2 was called to respond the same as No. 1. Each emblem being different, quite a surprise was created. In the evening, at the Jubilee service, these emblems were on exhibition, adding to the interest of the occasion.

V. Hints as to Medal Ceremonies.

The issue of a Historic Centenary Medal of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the interest of the Children's Educational Fund marks an epoch of no small significance in the history of Children's Day. Hence it seems proper to subjoin a few hints respecting the distribution of the medals when secured.

From the first announcement of the plan of coining a historic medal, which should be jointly commemorative of the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1784 and of the celebration of its first Centenary in 1884, great interest has been manifested on the part of both old and young to secure it. And now that the medal produced has proved so satisfactory to all who have seen it, both as to beauty, significance, and cheapness, it has become a question whether the demand for it will not continue, not only throughout the Centenary year, but for some years to come. It is very evident that no adequate supply can be procured by all the Sunday-schools that will want them *before* Children's Day, 1884. Hence arrangements will doubtless be planned for medal presentations on the arrival of the medals subscribed for on that day.

It is probable, moreover, that medal presentations may become a feature of the Christmas celebrations of the year. Indeed, no reason exists why such ceremonies may not be in order at any time during the present or immediately succeeding years. Still we advise that strenuous efforts be made to secure this year, as promptly as possible, all the medals that may be desired, and that their distribution be made at such times and in such connections as will most favorably impress the minds of both young and old. At such times eulogistic addresses on the lives of the representative Bishops whose heads appear on the medal may be made exceedingly instructive. Whenever some appropriate floral designs are thought desirable, the following hints from one of our most ingenious correspondents will be duly appreciated:

Scales for the Medals.

Take two wooden dishes, such as grocers use, cover with fancy paper and trim with flowers, to be balanced on a wooden upright and cross-beam, covered with paper and entwined with flowers. Then entwine creepers around the ribbons or strings that suspend the basins of the scales. Place the medals, or certificates representing them, in one of the scales and the money of the collection in the other. Keep a list of those who pay the price of the medals, and at the proper time have the distribution.

An Anchor Balance.

Form a wooden anchor and suspend it between tiny ladders; decorate as above. On the opposite flukes of the anchor place the vessels or pockets to hold the medals and money.

Jacob's Well.

Construct an old-fashioned well-sweep; have any deep vessel as the well, and with decorations make it look rustic. Deposit the medals in the "well," and draw them out as they may be paid for.

Golden Fruit, (for the Primary Classes.)

On a decorated evergreen bough, set in a block base to represent a tree, suspend the medals by threads or light wire hooks. Let those who are to receive the medals come forward. Have a shaking of the tree, and a gathering and distribution of the fruit. The medals will have been subscribed for beforehand.

C. W. T.

HELPS.

In consideration of a prevailing demand, we here present a collection of addresses, dialogues, and music that may, with propriety, be used to vary and extend well-prepared programmes for Children's Day exercises. But, although doing so, we wish also to utter a word of caution against attempting too much in this line, lest an undue proportion of time be consumed, and possible failures risked. The guidance of a printed programme places the conduct of exercises under the assured control of a competent leader, whereas the possible forgetfulness or other embarrassments of young speakers is liable to produce unforeseen and often undesirable results.

The value of any one of the articles which follow, or of any similar ones for the use suggested, will depend quite as much upon the manner in which it is rendered as on its own intrinsic merits. Hence the impropriety of trusting any but competent and well-trained speakers. The following hints, from a successful Sunday-school worker, are worthy of the attention of all on whom may devolve the responsibility of selecting or preparing extra services for Children's Day :

It is the religious spirit that we put into the exercises that makes them so effective. First, I try to get all the religious thought and feeling in a given piece into my own soul. Second, I try to instill the same into the heart and mind of the one or more chosen to make the recitation. Third, I proceed to drill so thoroughly that all ideas of fun or novelty excited by the topic or the circumstances are lost in the spirit of the recitation. Of course, it requires time and patience, and sometimes a holding in check of the dramatic spirit that is in some young people, also the bringing out of expression in others. But I find, as a rule, that all like to do the best they can, and hence will, with proper encouragement, drill patiently.

RECITATIONS AND ADDRESSES.

A. INFANTILE OR PRIMARY.

The following, selected from "Berean Whisper Songs," may be recited singly, or successively in a series, by different members of a class :

The Lord of love is calling
  Each little heart to-day,
O, who will rise and follow,
  The Saviour's call obey ?

The gift of life eternal
  The Lord holds out to me :
I'll gladly take and give him,
  My heart, his home to be.

A slave to Satan
  I'll never be,
Since Christ, the Saviour,
  Can set me free.

In the world is sin and strife ;
  Jesus speaks—his voice obey—
"Fly to me, I am the Life ;
  Walk in me, I am the Way."

"Jesus only" let me seek,
  Jesus let me find ;
His be all the words I speak,
  His my willing mind.

All the Father wills is best ;
  I will trust his care,
Find in him alone my rest,
  Trust him every-where.

All I think and all I do
  Must be simple, kind, and true ;
Then the Son of God will be
  Pleased to see his truth in me.

My light is but a little one,
  My light of faith and prayer,
But lo ! it glows like God's great sun,
  For it was lighted there.

The lilies and the birds of air
  Are fed and clothed each day :
And we may trust our Father's care,
  As glad and free as they.

Let our songs of gladness ring,
As we gather round our King ;
Scatter all the night of pain,
For the Saviour came to reign !

Thou, God, Seest Me.

If some one great and good is near,
  It makes us careful what we do;
Then how much more ought we to fear
  The Lord who sees us through and through!

Smiles and Gentle Words.

A smile is but a little thing
  To the happy giver,
Yet full oft it leaves a calm
  On life's boisterous river.
Gentle words are never lost,
  Howe'er small their seeming;
Sunny rays of love are they
  O'er our pathways gleaming.

The Dew-drop.

Darling little dew-drop,
  Shining in the sun,
Sparkling every moment
  Till your work is done:

May I learn a lesson
  From your beauty bright,
Ever to be lovely
  And pure in Jesus' sight!

Temperance Speech.

I do not think it best
  To wait till I'm a man,
But sign the temperance pledge
  As early as I can.

Let's be teetotal boys
  Till we grow up, and then,
'Tis my opinion, with God's help,
  We'll be teetotal men!

A Spider's Web.

It looks as pretty as a picture, doesn't it? But the poor fly who gets caught in it does not think it is pretty. Who would think that the spider, who looks so innocent, could be so cruel? Now, children, a spider's web is like something you may see very often on the street. The saloons where people go to get drink are like spiders' webs. They may look very bright and pretty, but if you go inside your feet will be likely to get tangled up, and you will be held fast, and perhaps lose your life, as the poor fly does! Look out for the spider-webs that men call saloons!

"Only a Little Child."

Only a little child!
  Yet, Lord, thou callest me;
Therefore, confidingly,
  I come to thee!

Only a little child!
  And though I sinful be,
Thou, Lord, forgivest me;
  I come to thee!

Only a little child!
  Looking up, loving thee,
Because thou lovest me,
  I come to thee!

Only a little child!
  Brightly and cheerfully,
Swiftly, obediently,
  I come to thee!

Only a little child!
  Thou wilt my Father be,
Till in eternity
  I dwell with thee.

—*Cecilia Havergal.*

A Child's Thought.

Sky and mountain, sea and wood,
  Are so bright and full of grace;
Children should be very good,
  Living in so fair a place.

Be it leaf, or be it flower,
  Grass or moss beneath my feet,
Every day and every hour,
  Show me something new and sweet.

Every morn a light I see,
  Every eve a shadow brings
O, how good a God must be
  Who has made such perfect things!

A Child's Hymn.

God, make my life a little light
  Within the world to glow—
A little flame that burneth bright,
  Wherever I may go.

God, make my life a little flower
  That giveth joy to all,
Content to bloom in native bower,
  Although its place be small.

God, make my life a little song
  That comforteth the sad—
That helpeth others to be strong,
  And makes the sinner glad.

God, make my life a little staff
  Whereon the weak may rest,
That so when health and strength I have
  May serve my neighbors best.

God, make my life a little hymn
  Of tenderness and praise—
Of faith that never waxeth dim,
  In all his wondrous ways.

Children's Good Deeds.

Think of something kind to do,
Never mind if it is small;
Little things are lost to view,
But God sees and blesses all.

Violets are modest flowers,
Hiding in their beds of green;
But their perfume fills the bowers,
Though they scarcely can be seen.

Pretty bluebells of the grove
Are than peonies more sweet;
Much their graceful look we love,
As they bloom about our feet.

So do little acts, we find,
Which at first we cannot see,
Leave the fragrance pure behind
Of abiding charity.

Faith and Works.

An infant's faith can reach the Arm
That keeps the world in motion;
A word may start some grand reform
Which spreads o'er land and ocean.

The down upon an insect's wing,
The dew upon the flower,
In their exquisite fashioning
Proclaim Almighty power.

The humblest use of wealth or worth
Is often the completest,
And of the beauteous things of earth
The simplest are the sweetest.

—*Mrs. J. M. Dana.*

"What Does Little Birdie Say?"

What does little birdie say
In her nest at peep of day?
"Let me fly," says little birdie—
"Mother let me fly away."
Birdie, rest a little longer,
Till the little limbs are stronger;
So she rests a little longer,
Then she flies away.

What does little baby say
In her bed at peep of day?
Baby says, like little birdie,
"Let me rise and fly away."
Baby, sleep a little longer,
Till the little limbs are stronger;
If she sleeps a little longer,
Baby, too, shall fly away.—*Tennyson.*

Gesture Recitations.

Take my *hands*, dear Jesus, } *Extending.*
Let them work for thee; }
Never let them idle } *Dropping.*
Or in mischief be. }
Let me fold them softly } *Folding.*
As thy name I speak; }
Let me lift them humbly } *Lifting.*
As thy grace I seek. }

Jesus, my hands I *lift* to thee;
I *look* above, thy light to see;
I *list* to hear thy whisper low;
I *wait* that I thy will may know.
I pray thee take me as I am,
Make me, Lord, thy little lamb. Amen.

Good Advice.

For Christ our Master's sake,
Do all the good you can,
To all the people you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
And as long as ever you can.

The Lily.

Away down in the ground lived a little root. It was cold and very dark there, but one day the sun sent a little warmth down, and the root said, "I will see if I can go up there." First it sent up a green shoot. The sun and air were so sweet that it worked on until soon there was a fine plant, and by and by a bunch of lovely flowers. This is one, and we call it a lily. The Holy Spirit, dear children, can do for us what the sun did for the brown root!

B. JUVENILE.

Opening Address.

My DEAR FRIENDS: I am nothing but a little boy, (or girl,) but I belong to a big army—I mean the Sunday-school army of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which has a host of little folks in it. Big soldiers and little soldiers, when they join the army, are put to work. So now we are going to join our forces for a good work. What do you think our Sunday-school army is trying to do? I guess you all know, don't you? Well, let me tell you. We make it a rule to meet once in a year in our churches all over the land, and have nice singing, and nice speeches, and a very nice collection to help good boys and girls get such an education as will fit them to be ministers, teachers, and missionaries. Now to-day, while the birds are singing and the beautiful flowers are laughing, we meet, with the thousands of little boys and girls in our schools all over the land, to have

our day. We expect to have a nice time, and go home loving our teachers and our school and Church more than ever. We are glad to see you all here to-day. I feel like shaking hands with every one of you, and saying, "I am glad to see you." I am glad you love us and that you have come to help us enjoy our Children's Day. May you go home thanking God that you have been with us, and may he keep you young and happy in his love as long as you live!

Children's Day.—Its Origin and Design.

The great religious revival of the eighteenth century, usually called Methodism, was introduced into America in the year 1766. That event was publicly commemorated by the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1866, the hundredth year following.

At that period it was determined to create a Children's Educational Fund, the proceeds of which should be used in aiding "meritorious Sunday-school scholars in obtaining a more advanced education." For that object about $60,000 were raised. But as it was foreseen that the claims on the fund would increase with the multiplication of Sunday-schools, and the growing demands of the Church for Christian workers, a plan was adopted for the constant increase of the fund or its proceeds. In the development of that plan the General Conference of 1872 appointed the second Sunday in June to be every-where observed as CHILDREN'S DAY, on which, "wherever practicable, a collection should be taken in aid of the Sunday-School Fund of the Board of Education." Prior to that no such general observance as Children's Day had ever been known, but since that time it has been extensively adopted, and has proved peculiarly interesting.

While the benevolent object named was the primary design of Children's Day, it was from the beginning intended to associate with its observance the most profitable exercises and the best of influences. It is held at the period of blooming flowers and the singing of birds. It should, therefore, be a joyous day. But it should also be an occasion for praise, for prayer, and for instruction. Hence, sweet hymns should be sung, God's word should be read, and choice sentiments uttered. In all the exercises the children should have a prominent part, and every thing said and done should be adapted to impress upon their minds and hearts the importance of Christian life and duty.

The Children's Day Procession.

Who can measure the length, or describe the beauty, of the Children's Day procession? In fancy we may see the youth and children coming together to-day from over the mountains, and down the valleys, all through the United States. Boys and girls from Maine to California, from New Hampshire to Florida, and from Minnesota to Texas, will bring beautiful flowers to perfume the air and adorn their churches and Sunday-school rooms. They will also bring their offerings of money, by which they will help build up their own Children's Fund, and thus prepare the way for going and helping others go to college. They will read together some precious words of Scripture, and sing sweet hymns, in which the birds will join. When the public services are over many of them will go on a floral mission, bearing the bouquets which have delighted them and their friends as presents to the poor, the sick, and the aged who could not be with them in their public assemblies.

Happy children who live in these times, when the churches by thousands gladly join in giving them a summer jubilee! Happy period, too, of the world's history when from this land and Church of ours the Christian Children's Day observance is extending round the world. This year it will be held, not only in our own United States, but in Mexico and South America, in Europe, in India, in China, in Japan, and even in benighted Africa.

The Highway of Knowledge.

What an inviting career opens before every good Sunday-school scholar of the present day! And how beautifully that career is indicated in the picture before us! It, of course, begins with the home, which may be very humble, even quite down and almost out of sight in the vale of poverty. The first upward step leads to the Sunday-school. The next to the day-school. Too many stop there and do not try to go any farther. But the Church invites all her aspiring children onward and upward to higher privileges and more thorough preparation for large Christian usefulness. In this view she has built academies and classical seminaries in various parts of the land. In these her youth may study the ancient languages and the sciences, thus making preparation to enter the college or university, and thus secure the very highest advantages of instruction.

But the question arises, how can our poorer boys and girls ever hope to climb so high? The answer is, that they must themselves press upward *step by step*. But will they not need help? Yes. Their parents and friends must help them all they can. When this is done, and more help is needed, the Church proposes to encourage them by judicious loans on the most favorable terms. For this object she has created and

is enlarging from year to year her Children's Educational Fund. By means of that fund more than one thousand grown-up Sunday-school scholars have been aided already, and many more will be in coming days. It is in the interest of that fund that collections are taken in all our Sunday-schools and many of our churches on *Children's Day*. It is hoped that the children every-where, and their friends, too, will have a happy time to-day, and that they will all give as much as they can to increase *their own fund* for education. Let them give liberally, and they will be the better entitled to receive help from it when they need help to enable them to graduate at the seminary or college. Every year we want a thousand recruits to enter upon this upward march. The Church wants them to become her ministers and missionaries, but she wants them first to pass up the highway of knowledge and graduate at some one of her grand colleges or universities over which should float the banner of the Cross.

Recruits Wanted.

When an army is to be raised for fighting, men are sent out with fife and drum to beat up for recruits. When the Church wants recruits for the army of the Lord she opens her Sunday-schools, and invites in the children to enlist under the banners of the Prince of peace. She does more. She appoints one day each year, the second Sunday in June, to be the CHILDREN'S DAY. On that day, amid the singing of sweet voices and the caroling of birds, she wants to have the scholars and teachers invited onward and upward to her higher schools and colleges. Of these she has a great number, in which she offers a thorough education to the poorest of her children who wish to become standard-bearers in the service of Christ.

If any of this class have not the means to get started beyond a common school education, she offers them aid from her Children's Educational Fund. In order that all may have a chance to help that fund and its objects, so that it may grow in proportion to the increased calls for workers, she has appointed a Children's Day collection. To this collection all the children and all their friends are invited to give all they can, not knowing but the day will come when they or theirs may want help from the fund themselves.

Besides a good collection on Children's Day, the Church wants a thousand children, who have not before thought of such a thing, to make their first start for college. The first start may be found in the idea that they *can;* the second, in the purpose that they *will*. Other steps will then be in order, leading on and up through years of effort. But perseverance and the sympathy of the Church will enable those who are in earnest to climb the hill of knowledge in due time. President Garfield made his start from the tow-path of a canal, and Bishop Kingsley from a wood-pile, but both reached the height where "Fame's proud temple shines afar." From among our million and a half of Sunday-school children not less than a thousand are wanted to start for college every year. Who will start this year? and who will help those who have started?

Early Methodism.

John Wesley, to whom, under God, all modern Methodist Churches owe their origin, was born at Epworth, in England, June 14, 1703, and his brother, Charles Wesley, the hymn writer, was born at the same place, December 18, 1708.

In 1735 the Wesleys came to Georgia and preached to the Indians and the colonists. In 1739 they became spiritually awakened and truly converted. From that event Methodism, or as it has been fitly called, modern "Christianity in earnest," dates its origin. The first Methodist chapel was built in England in 1739, but Mr. Wesley lived to establish churches in England till the year 1791.

Methodism was introduced into the United States in 1766, and the Centenary of that event was celebrated in 1866, with grand results in many forms. From 1766 to 1784, a period of 18 years, covering the period of the Revolutionary War, Methodism was promoted in the United States by religious societies in connection with Mr. Wesley.

Organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Declaration of Independence and the Revolutionary War having resulted in the separation of the American colonies from England, it was considered necessary and proper to organize the Methodist Societies in this country into a Church, that they might have the benefit of the sacraments, an ordained ministry, and regular preaching of the word of God.

In this view Mr. Wesley fully and formally concurred. An organizing Conference was, therefore, called. It met in Baltimore, December 24, 1784, 60 preachers being present. The name Methodist Episcopal Church was adopted, and two Bishops were elected. These were Dr. Coke, who had been ordained in England, and Francis Asbury, who was the first Bishop ordained in America.

A system of Episcopal government, a liturgy,

Articles of Religion, a Discipline, and Hymn Book were all adopted. A college was also projected, and from that time systematic Church work was commenced.

At the period of its organization the Church had 18,000 members and 104 traveling ministers, besides a considerable number of local preachers and exhorters.—*P. M.*

Then and Now.

Perhaps some, if not all, who are here would like to listen to just a few facts contrasting the condition of the Methodist Episcopal Church at the period of its organization with that at the end of the ninety-ninth year of its organized existence. Not supposing you can easily remember the exact figures, such as may be found in the "General Minutes" and the "Centennial Year-Book," I will only attempt to give you round numbers, and those in all cases below the actual figures, where there is any variation.

Then our Church had 2 Bishops; she now has 10, having lost 3 by death since the last General Conference. Then our Bishops only had duties in a narrow region lying along the Atlantic coast; now their duties require them to traverse the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific every year, and frequently to go around the world. Then we had 1 Annual Conference; now we have more than 100, including our Mission Conferences. Then we had 104 traveling ministers, that is, those who gave their whole time to preaching the Gospel; now we have over 12,000. Then we had 18,000 members; now we have more than 1,700,000, while other Methodist Churches that have branched off from us have at least 1,400,000 more, making a grand total of over 3,000,000 of communicants in Methodist Churches in the United States. Whenever we make such enumerations we ought to remember that they can only apply to the living, and that uncounted thousands have gone during successive years from the ranks of our churches on earth to join the Church of the Redeemer in heaven. In 1784 we had 1 literary institution *projected*, but with neither building nor funds. Now we have 144, with buildings, grounds, and endowments worth over $13,000,000. Then we had no Sunday-schools; now we have more than 21,000, with an enlisted Sunday-school army of 1,865,000 teachers and scholars.

Then we had no newspaper or printing-press; now we have our Eastern and Western Book Concerns, publishing annually 235,000,000 of pages of books and tracts, to which may be added uncounted millions more of pages of printed matter issued in 72 different periodicals published in the interest of the Church. Then we had no benevolent connectional agencies; now we have our great Missionary Society, our Sunday-School Union, our Tract Society, our Church Extension Society, our Freedmen's Aid Society, and our Board of Education; to describe any one of which fully would require a speech as long as this.

Our Missionary Society.

Although our Church was missionary in character and in spirit from the first, yet it was not till 1819 that our Missionary Society was formally organized. During the past 65 years that society has been growing in the confidence and support of the Church, and in its means of doing good, both at home and abroad.

In this country it has maintained missions among our native Indians, of various tribes; among the colored people, both in the days of slavery and of freedom; and also among immigrants and settlers speaking the French, the German, the Swedish, the Norwegian, the Welsh, the Portuguese, the Chinese, and the English languages.

Abroad it has to-day under its care missions in Mexico, South America, Africa, Italy, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, India, China, and Japan. In its foreign missions it has over 1,700 preachers, teachers, and other helpers, foreign and native, and 39,000 members and probationers.

For the support of its missions it is proposing to raise this year $844,000, while for similar purposes its strong allies, the Woman's Foreign and the Woman's Home Missionary Societies, are planning to raise $160,000 more. If these societies are successful in raising what they propose this year, the whole amount will be over $1,000,000, and it is well known that they expect the children of the Church to help them do it. Besides, they are expecting to find among the children and youths of our Sunday-schools their most hopeful candidates for future missionaries and teachers.

Board of Church Extension.

While our people have been building and rebuilding churches since the days of Bishop Asbury, only about 20 years have passed since a connectional society for that purpose was formed. Since 1864, through the agency of that society, more than 4,000 churches, in all parts of the country, have been aided by gifts and loans. For that purpose more than $2,300,000 have been used, and now money is being raised and appropriated more rapidly than ever, especially to aid in founding new churches in our frontier

States and Territories. Often the gift or loan of $250 will secure the building of a new church in some destitute place, and it is estimated that, in order to keep pace with our responsibilities, in this line, we must soon build churches at the rate of three a day. We now have over 18,000 churches, worth, with the land they occupy, $65,000,000. We want to begin the new century of our Church's history by adding to them at the rate of about 1,000 a year. But even this is easier to be done than to secure for them an adequate supply of ministers. A church may be built in a year, often in a few months, but when a youth is called of God to the ministry, as a rule, long years of hard and patient study are necessary to qualify him for public duty. Thus it may be seen that schools and students and ministers are needed to complete the work for which the Board of Church Extension is laying foundations on so grand a scale.

Our Sunday-School Union and Tract Society.

These great and important agencies of Church activity may be noticed in connection with each other for the reason that they have been coupled together by the General Conference under the charge of one Secretary. Each one prints and circulates a vast amount of good reading. That of the Tract Society is in cheap form and adapted to free distribution specially in aid of missionary and pastoral work. That of the Sunday-School Union consists of books for Sunday-school libraries and periodicals for teachers and scholars. Vast numbers of these are sold and circulated in all parts of our country. The number of volumes in the libraries of our different Sunday-schools is over 1,700,000. Besides the large amount of tracts and Sunday-school literature sold, the two societies give away about $30,000 worth in grants to those not able to buy for themselves. In this way great good is done in remote places and difficult fields of Christian labor, at home and abroad. By judicious grants the Sunday-School Union has, during the last forty years, founded and helped to found thousands of new Sunday-schools, many of which have grown into strong churches. Each of these societies has a grand and glorious mission as well as an ever-expanding field of work before it. They have both done work of untold value during the last forty years, and they will enter upon the second century of the Church's history with bright promise of still grander success in the future.

The Freedmen's Aid Society.

The sudden emancipation of 4,000,000 of slaves as the result of the recent war made extraordinary efforts necessary to furnish the means of instruction to them and their children. For this object the Freedmen's Aid Society was formed in 1866. Since that time the society has done a great and a glorious work. It has founded schools of various grades all over the South. The greater number of those schools are for elementary and academic teaching, but they also embrace several colleges and universities, one superior medical college, one theological seminary, and several theological departments. During the last year the society has aided 43 different institutions of learning, having in them 162 teachers, and 5,200 pupils. During 18 years it has invested $350,000 in educational property in the South, and in so doing it has only fairly begun the work it has undertaken.

This year it asks from the Church, with the full sanction of the Board of Bishops, a special Centennial offering of a quarter of a million of dollars, every cent of which it ought to have.

Address to the Flowers on Children's Day.

White daisies, golden butter-cups, sweet roses, and all beautiful flowers! Do you know where you are to-day? I will tell you. "*This is none other but the house of God.*" Do you know why you are here? I will tell you. *To make the place of his feet glorious.* In olden time it was said: "*The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together, to beautify the place of my sanctuary; and I will make the place of my feet glorious.*" Now, in these days, we seek "*the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys,*" "*the apple tree among the trees of the wood;*" we go where "*the flowers appear on the earth, and the vines with tender grapes give a good smell;*" and so, bright flowers, green leaves, and tender vines, we bring you here to beautify God's sanctuary on this our Children's Day.

To-day we "consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;" and as we look around on these lovely flowers, we say, "*Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*"

Bright flowers, sweet flowers, what lessons of trust have you for us, in this our sanctuary, on this our Children's Day! (*Let a few clear, well-trained voices respond:*)

"If God so clothe the grass of the field, shall he not much more clothe you? Therefore, take no thought, saying, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."—*M. B. C. S.*

"A Little Child Shall Lead Them."

An infidel father was for some time laid aside by sickness. When visited by his skeptical companions he was fond of displaying on his bed a board on which he had impiously chalked, "God is Nowhere." Just after one of these visits his favorite child entered the room. He kissed her, and lifted her to the bed. Instantly the eyes of the dear child fell on the board. She began spelling out the letters one by one, and then exclaimed: "Why, papa, it is, 'God is now here!'" The child repeated these words several times with much animation. The astonished father was silent. The scoffer's tongue clave to the roof of his mouth. The repeated words of his child went as arrows to his heart. The remembrance of his own childhood flashed in a moment before his vision, and he saw himself by his beloved, but now departed, mother's side, repeating to her the texts she had early taught him, and among them was, "Thou God seest me." It was the turning point in the infidel's life. The Holy Spirit strove powerfully with him. Like the poor publican, he prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner!" The seeking sinner and a waiting Saviour met, and there was joy in heaven over the repentant and now believing father. Often has he, since then, testified, with tearful eyes and thankful heart, "Ah, it was God in his rich mercy who sent my dear child on that memorable morning to lead me from the depths of infidelity to himself."

An Introductory Speech.

Welcome, thrice welcome, friends! We are to-day in the shade of a massive tree that has become, under the blessing and care of God, by his rains and sunshine, as the cedars of Lebanon and the palms by the river side. It is fragrant in memory, fruitful in works, massive in proportions—for it girdles the globe—and, best of all, sends a cargo of its ripest fruit of redeemed and sanctified souls to the heavenly port each year. In the shade of this our Church tree we want to talk of its planting and growth, as well as to do what we can to make it bear more abundant fruit.

There are some seeds to be planted to-day that are to grow in a foreign clime. There are some, also, that will take root in every State in the Union.

Some of these seeds have been long neglected, but now the Husbandman calls that they be cared for, and we are here to do his bidding. We are here, also, to make true our trust in God, and to know that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."—*C. W. T.*

A Collection Speech.

God has always asked voluntary gifts at the hands of his worshipers. Not that he was lacking, nor that he could not open the vein of silver, or find the place for gold, but that we might have opportunity of "showing our faith by our works."

True love for Christ and his bride, the Church, well prompt the best gifts we may have to bestow, gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Our floral display will soon fade, but what we do to-day to aid the youth of our Church in securing an education will be a perpetual blooming for time and eternity. We, therefore, ask to-day the largest possible gifts, in thanksgiving for a hundred years of prosperity, in members, in property, in influence. May what is done to-day be a never-crumbling monument of heart gifts, that in the next hundred years may have the largest increase that can grow on consecrated ground tilled by earnest labor.

We are fulfilling prophecy to-day, "For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Higher and higher the knowledge of the Lord is rising. Every student we send out, every college we build, every church we erect, every turn of the press with printed page, every Sabbath-school with earnest study of the word of God—all these are helping to fill the earth with the knowledge of the Lord.

Let us, therefore, remember that the Lord loveth the cheerful giver, whether young or old.—*C. W. T.*

A Medal-Subscription Speech.

Among the fleeting years and ever-changing generations, mankind has been always trying to mark events of historic note—sometimes by massive structures, sometimes by lofty columns, and sometimes by more modest souvenirs.

In the Old Testament we see Aaron's rod kept to tell of a murmuring people. We see Jacob lifting up, for a pillar of remembrance, the stone that had given him a resting place while he slept. We see the manna carefully placed away in the most sacred place to tell, in after years, the story of God's feeding the host of Israel in the wilderness. We also see Joshua setting up stones of remembrance on the banks of the Jordan to commemorate the miraculous crossing of that river into the land of promise.

In the mirror of secular history we note the pyramids and obelisks of Egypt, the marbles of Nineveh and Babylon, the triumphal arches of conquerors, and the columns and statues of great men from the heroes of Greece and the

emperors of Rome down to such presidents of the United States as Washington, Lincoln, and Garfield.

In these later days how many are the little tokens that have come to our own homes to remind us of scenes of the past? Among them are the national Centennial Medals that so many people carried to all parts of the country from Philadelphia in 1876. Still later the members of the Grand Army of the Republic have put on their badges, bearing stars made from cannon used in the war. So to-day we have a medal to represent one hundred years of prosperous Methodism. (Holding up a medal.) Here is a souvenir of the early day—Bishop Asbury looking down upon us with his blessing. With such a token before us, how we can live over grand scenes of history! See that first Conference of Methodist preachers, in 1784! See them planning for the years to come, that we might have the Gospel brought to our doors! What a mighty growth has taken place in all parts of the Church since he rode over the whole nation on horseback. Here we have a face more familiar, (turning the medal,) Bishop Simpson, the representative of the Methodism of to-day. None the less in labor, none the less in care of the one hundred Conferences that God has given us in the century closing.

Now there is another one hundred I want you to see. It is one hundred cents toward the obtaining these medals as souvenirs of this Centennial of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States, that we may each carry through this life for our families one of these mementoes of this glad year, and then hand it down to those who may come after us. Let it mark for us and ours, for the years to come, the work in which we took part on this Children's Day for education in the great Methodist Episcopal Church.—*C. W. T.*

Our Next Centennial.

When the sixty Methodist preachers met together at the Christmas Conference, one hundred years ago, do you suppose that they had any idea of the wonderful success which would attend the labors of the Church then being organized? Equally unknown is the history of the Church during the next century. At the next Centennial, none of us will be present. But if our names are written in the Lamb's book of life, we will spend the day in the city of the New Jerusalem. We will have removed from our place in the Church on earth to a seat with Christ upon his throne.

But who will celebrate the children's Centennial one hundred years hence? Millions of children, many times the number engaged in to-day's service. Songs of joy and praise will ascend to heaven from many tribes and nations. New tongues, new dialects, will then be heard in the songs of the children. Rich and poor will then, as now, bow before the throne, and praise God for the success of a spiritual religion taught by a spiritual Church. New generations will then call to mind our achievements in the work of the Lord. New generations will exhort men and women to a deeper consecration. Preachers will stand up before their people telling the "old, old story of Jesus and his love." Sunday-schools, with new methods, in new quarters, with odd-looking books and papers, with more oddly dressed teachers, will carry on the old work of teaching children to love Jesus. We shall not be there in person, but shall we not all be there in influence? Is not Christ here to-day in the life of every believing Christian? Is not Luther here in the freedom with which we protest against ignorance, superstition, and sin? Is not John Wesley here to-day in the earnest zeal, simple methods, and religious experience of every true Methodist? In such a sense may we all be present. Then let us, my dear friends, so live and love and labor as to leave our impress on every character within our reach, so that after our departure from this life we may continue to live in the hearts of many. May we all in this way be present at the next Centennial of the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church.—*P. M.*

Closing Address.

Now, my friends, we have come to the close of our Children's Day Service. We had a purpose in coming together. We hoped to stir up a deeper interest in the work of the Sabbath-school. We hoped to excite new interest in the work of education. We desired also to celebrate, as a Sunday-school, the one hundredth anniversary of the organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and present to the audience a threefold view of her career. The past is full of joy and salvation. When the early ministers went forth with the Bible, Discipline, and Hymn Book in their hands, preaching Christ and him crucified, they confidently expected the conversion of sinners. Their labors and prayers were not in vain. God did not disappoint their faith, but day by day shouts went up to heaven over ransomed souls saved by faith in Jesus. The Church has grown in numerical strength year by year, until to-day her members have their altars set up in the farthest corners of the world. The present is a time of awakening. An increase of means and of opportunities has

increased the responsibility of the Church. The heathen are calling in louder tones for the Gospel message. The poor and needy in our own land are praying for care and instruction. The children of the land are crying for food, raiment, and soul life. Will not the Church give to these needy ones? Will she not increase in spirituality and inspire the thousands within her pale to a deeper earnestness and a full consecration?

The future lies before us. What shall be our history? The world is crying for change, for more modern ideas in religion. But the religion of the Lord Jesus is too old to be modernized. It is too ancient to be bedecked with the adornments of novelty. It is "the same yesterday, to-day, and forever." If the Methodist Episcopal Church during the next century preaches nothing but Christ and him crucified, bowing not to the demands of modern infidelity and worldliness, the next time the children of the Church celebrate her Centennial there will be few if any spots on this globe where the name of Jesus is not loved and cherished. May the coming hundred years of the Church be crowned with success! May our history be full of divine glory! May Jesus continue to be the foundation stone upon which we build! and may the Church militant increase daily in spirituality, while we, one by one, go to the Church triumphant to join the ranks of the redeemed.—*P. M.*

Impeachment of the Liquor Traffic.

This monster has "the world" for a home, "the flesh" for a mother, and "the devil" for a father. He stands erect, a monster of fabulous proportions. He has no head, and cannot think. He has no heart, and cannot feel. He has no eyes, and cannot see. He has no ears, and cannot hear. He has only an instinct by which to plan, a passion by which to allure, a coil by which to bind, a fang with which to tear, and an infinite maw in which to consume his victims.

He is cunning as a fox, wise as a serpent, strong as an ox, bold as a lion, mercilless as a tiger, remorseless as a hyena, fierce as a pestilence, deadly as the plague. To condemn and correct such a criminal is not the pastime of an hour, but the manly, hero-born, martyr-bred work of a life-time.

I impeach this monster, and arraign him before the bar of public judgment, and demand his condemnation in the name of industry robbed and beggared; of the public peace disturbed and broken; of private safety gagged and garroted; of common justice violated and trampled; of the popular conscience debauched and prostituted; of royal manhood wrecked and ruined; and of helpless innocence waylaid and assassinated.—*Rev. Dr. C. H. Fowler.*

The Rumseller's Demand.

License me to sow the seeds of poverty and shame all over the community! License me to coin money out of widows' sighs and orphans' tears, and the blood of souls! License me to weave cords of habit about your strong men and lead them captive—bound to the chariot-wheels of the Demon Rum! License me to make widows and orphans! License me to write the word "DISGRACE" upon the fair foreheads of innocent children! License me to break the hearts of fond fathers and mothers, whose sons I will bring to poverty and shame, and of whose daughters I will make drunkards' wives! License me to take bread from hungry children, and rob them of little shoes for their feet and comfortable clothes for their shivering forms! License me to befog the mind, paralyze the reason, and benumb the conscience of your legislators, and thus corrupt the very fountains of your political life and prosperity. License me to incite red-handed Murder to his work of destruction, and turn loose upon society a whole brood of evils that will fill your jails and penitentiaries, poor-houses and asylums! License me to aid in the work of sending one hundred thousand of our American citizens down to drunkards' graves every year. Throw around me the protection of law while I poison the bodies, enfeeble the minds, and ruin the souls of my fellow-men!—*Temperance Shield.*

A Short Speech on Tobacco.

My friends, I will take for my motto this verse: "Thy sons should not smoke, nor thy daughters snuff."

Many years ago Satan took a tobacco seed and cast it into the ground. It grew and became a great plant, and spread its leaves rank and broad. And it came to pass, in the course of time, that the sons of men looked upon it, and some of them thought it beautiful to look upon, and much to be desired to make lads look big and manly, so they put forth their hands and did gather and chew thereof; and some it made sick, and others to expectorate most filthily. And it also came to pass, that those who chewed it became weak and unmanly, and they found that they were enslaved. And Satan laughed. And in the course of time it came also to pass that old ladies snuffed it, and they were suddenly taken with fits, in consequence thereof, and they did sneeze, and sneeze, insomuch that their eyes were filled with tears, and they did

look exeeedingly funny. And yet others foolishly wrought the leaves thereof into rolls, and did set fire to one end thereof, and did try to look very grave and wise while the smoke aseended. And Satan laughed. And the eultivation thereof beeame a great and mighty business in the earth. Merehantmen waxed rich by the eommeree thereof. The poor, that eould not buy shoes, nor bread, nor books for their little ones, spent their money for it. And Satan laughed. Now, my friends, eease from this evil thing that you do. Be slaves no more.

A Methodist Elephant.

Dr. Mansell tells of a rich East Indian, who came to camp-meeting last year with his elephant, and as he was a Methodist, of course, his elephant was a Methodist elephant. The preachers and the ehildren took rides upon it, and felt mueh pleased to have it at the camp-meeting. Its master also owned several villages, but his possessions did not keep him from seeking the true riches, as was the case with the young man who came to the Saviour. Although a nominal Christian, he did not enjoy the peace whieh comes from a knowledge of pardoned sin, so he stood up before the great multitude, and asked them to pray for him. In a short time he reeeived the assurance that he was aceepted as a ehild of God, and that gave him a happiness which all his riehes failed to do. In a few months he died a martyr's death, and Hamanan went to heaven from a land of heathenism. Will we be less wise than this Hindu? Will we let our little wealth and eares keep our hearts from being ehiefly interested in our soul's salvation.—*M. E. D.*

Freely ye have Received, Freely Give.

"Shall I take, and take, and never give?"
The robin ehirped; "No, that would be wrong;"
So he pieked at the berries and flew away,
And poured out his soul in a beautiful song.

"Shall I take, and take, and never give?"
The bee in the elover buzzed; "No, ah, no!"
So he gathered the honey, and filled his eell;
But 'twas not for himself that he labored so.

"Shall I take, and take, and never give?"
What answer will *you* make, my little one?
Like the blossom, the bird, and the bee, do you say,
"I will not live for myself alone?"

Let the same little hands that are ready to take
The things that our Father so freely has given,
Be ever as ready to do a kind deed,
Till love to each other makes earth seem like heaven

The Seed and the Sower.

Ever so little the seed may be,
Ever so little the hand,
But when it is sown it must grow, you see,
And develop its nature, weed, flower, or tree;
The sunshine, the air, and the dew are free
At its eommand.

If the seed be good, we rejoice in hope
Of the harvest it will yield.
We wait and watch for its springing up,
Admire its growth, and count on the erop
That will eome from the little seeds we drop
In the great wide field.

But if we heedlessly scatter wide
Seeds we may happen to find,
We eare not for culture, or what may betide,
We sow here and there on the highway side;
Whether they've lived or whether they've died,
We never mind.

Yet every sower must one day reap
Fruit from the seed he has sown;
How earefully then it beeomes us to keep
A watehful eye on the seed, and seek
To sow what is good, that we may not weep
To reeeive our own.

The Seed of Love.

The farmer planted a seed—
A little, dry, black seed;
And off he went to other work—
For the farmer was never known to shirk—
And eared for what he had need.

The night came with its dew—
The eool and silent dew;
The dawn came, and the day,
And the farmer worked away
At labors not a few.

Home from his work one day—
One glowing, summer day—
His ehildren showed him a perfeet flower;
It had burst in bloom that very hour;
How, I cannot say.

But I know if the smallest seed
In the soil of love be cast,
Both day and night will do their part;
And the sower who works with a trusting heart
Will find the flower at last.

—*Selected.*

Beauties of Creation.

Ours is a lovely world, how fair!
Thy beauties e'en on earth appear.
The seasons in their courses fall,
And bring successive joys. The sea,
The earth, the sky, are full of thee,
Benignant, glorious Lord of all.

There's beauty in the heat of day;
There's glory in the noontide ray;
There's sweetness in the twilight shades;
Magnificence in night. Thy love
Arched the grand heaven of blue above,
And all our smiling earth pervades.

And if thy glories here be found,
Streaming with radiance all around,
What must the fount of glory be!
In thee we'll hope, in thee confide,
Thou, mercy's never-ebbing tide,
Thou, love's unfathomable sea.

—*Bowring.*

The Four Seasons.

Cometh a maiden, glad and ween,
Clad in a robe of palest green;
The robins follow her gentle call,
And wild flowers bloom where her footsteps fall.

Cometh another with stately tread,
In lilies and roses garlanded;
Her breath is the essence of all things sweet,
And in her wake springs the golden wheat.

The third appears in a russet suit,
Her lap o'erfloweth with luscious fruit;
She wreaths her brow in autumnal leaves,
And wends her way through the standing sheaves.

The last is a snow-white maiden fair,
Bedecked in pearls and diamonds rare;
She lures the others to rest complete,
Then wraps them all in a winding-sheet.

—*Mrs. J. M. Dana.*

Alabaster Boxes and Flowers.

If e'er an alabaster box
Of tenderness and love your own,
I pray you keep it not sealed up
Until your friends are dead and gone.

O! fill their lives with sweetness *now*,
And speak approving, cheering words,
While you may thrill the beating heart,
And wake sweet music from its chords.

If fragrant flowers you mean to send,
To deck their coffins when they die,
O! send them *now* to cheer their *homes*,
Ere to their final rest they fly.

If any friend has laid away
An alabaster box for me;
And full of fragrant sympathy,
To break when I shall cease to be—

I'd rather he would bring it out,
In life's long, weary, troubled hours,
And open it, that it may *there*
Refresh and cheer my sinking powers.

O! let us learn our friends to anoint,
With love for burial, ere we part;
Post-mortem kindness cannot cheer,
Nor lift the burden from the heart.

Consider the Lilies.

They have no care;
They bend their heads before the storm,
And rise to meet the sunshine warm,
And dance responsive to the breeze,
And nestle underneath the trees,
And take whatever life shall bring
As gayly as the birds that sing.

They do not toil;
Content with their allotted task
They do but grow; they do not ask
A richer lot, a higher sphere,
But in their loveliness appear
And grow and smile, and do their best,
And unto God they leave the rest.

They have no sin;
Their pure, sweet faces they upraise;
And shrink not from the sun's bright gaze.
And if the earth should soil, the rain
Comes down to make them clean again,
And scented, beautiful and white,
They live their lives in God's dear sight.

—*Marianne Farningham.*

The Fairest Rose.

Through nature's royal range of flowers,
That deck the vales and hills,
There's not in all our garden bowers,
Nor by the flowing rills—
There's not a single flower that grows
That can compare with Sharon's Rose.

When paradise in all its bloom
Shed fragrance on the air,
The fairest flower had not its home
Among its flowers so fair;
The Rose of Sharon, rose of love,
Was then in paradise above.

But God's own hand this rose did take,
And plant it here below,
And for the guilty sinner's sake
This fairest rose did grow—
By cool Siloam's flowing stream,
The fairest that was ever seen.

Yet, Sharon's Rose was rudely torn,
And crushed, and cast aside;
The mighty ones of earth did scorn,
This fair rose in their pride;
But Sharon's Rose decks heaven's bower,
And is on earth the fairest flower.

—*Rev. Thomas Hanford.*

Nothing to Do.

"Nothing to do!" in this world of ours,
Where weeds grow up with the fairest flowers,
Where smiles have only a fitful play,
Where hearts are breaking every day?

"Nothing to do!" thou Christian soul,
Wrapping thee round in thy selfish stole?
Off with the garments of sloth and sin,
Christ, thy Lord, hath a kingdom to win.

"Nothing to do!" There are prayers to
On the altar of incense, day by day;
There are foes to meet within and without,
There is error to conquer, strong and stout.

"Nothing to do!" There are minds to teach
The simplest form of Christian speech;
There are hearts to lure with loving wile,
From the grimmest haunts of sin's defile.

"Nothing to do!" There are lambs to feed,
The precious hopes of the Church's need;
Strength to be borne to the weak and faint,
Vigils to keep with the doubting saint.

"Nothing to do!" and thy Saviour said,
"Follow thou me in the path I tread."
Lord, lend thy help the journey through,
Lest, faint, we cry, "So much to do!"

Work and Win.

Whate'er you have to do, my boys,
Be sure you do it right;
If life is but a battle, boys,
Be faithful in the fight.

Don't cringe and squirm in any way,
But buckle down to work;
Let those around you plainly see,
You do not act the shirk.

If lessons hard are given you,
Don't murmur nor complain;
Just buckle down and study hard,
And victory attain.

Yes, that's the way to do, my boys,
If you would honored be;
The good, the great, have fought and worked,
As you can plainly see.

Then fight and work, and strive and strike,
Aim high when you begin;
Just buckle boldly down to work,
And you will surely win.

God Wants the Young.

God wants the happy-hearted boys,
The stirring boys, the best of boys,
The worst of boys!
He wants them soldiers of his cross,
Brave to defend each righteous cause,
And so uphold his sacred laws;
That good and true
The world may be,
Redeemed from sin
And misery.
God wants the boys!

God wants the happy-hearted girls,
The loving girls, the best of girls,
The worst of girls!
He wants to make the girls his pearls,
And to reflect his holy face,
And bring to mind his wondrous grace;
That beautiful
The world may be,
And filled with love
And purity.
God wants the girls!

The Bible.

Study it carefully;
Think of it prayerfully;
Deep in thy heart let its precepts dwell;
Slight not its history;
Ponder its mystery;
None can e'er prize it too fondly or well.

Accept the glad tidings,
The warnings and chidings,
Found in this volume of heavenly lore;
With faith that's unfailing,
And love all prevailing,
Trust in its promise of life evermore.

May this message of love,
From our Father above,
To all nations and kindreds be given,
Till the ransomed shall raise
Joyous anthems of praise,
Halleluiah on earth and in heaven.

Foot-prints.

Lives of great men all remind *us*
We may make *our* lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Foot-prints on the sands of time—
Foot-prints that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, will take heart again.

—*Longfellow.*

Children's Day Foreseen.

Sweetly sang the stern old prophet,
In the dawning of the day,
Of the new streets of the city,
Full of boys and girls at play.

How the peaceful old men, leaning
On their staffs, should look on them,
Laughing in their merry gambols,
In the New Jerusalem.

Fancy all those golden highways
Full of happy boys and girls,
Playing 'round the feet of angels,
'Neath the rosy light of pearls!

Softly said the blessed Master,
'Mongst the hills of Galilee,
"All made up of hearts like children's
Shall my heavenly kingdom be."

There shall be eternal Sabbath—
So the holy writers say;
May be their "Eternal Sabbath"
Meant Eternal Children's Day!

Good-night.

A fair little girl sat under a tree,
Sewing as long as her eyes could see;
Then smoothed her work and folded it right,
And said, "Dear work, good-night, good-night."

Such a number of rooks came over her head,
Crying "Caw, caw," on their way to bed;
She said, as she watched their curious flight,
"Little black things, good-night, good-night."

The horses neighed, and the oxen lowed,
The sheep's "bleat, bleat" came over the road,
All seeming to say, with a quiet delight,
"Good little girl, good-night, good-night."

She did not say to the sun "good-night,"
Though she saw him there, like a ball of light;
For she knew he had God's time to keep
All over the world, and could never sleep.

The tall pink fox-glove bowed his head,
The violet courtesied and went to bed;
And good little Lucy tied up her hair
And said, on her knees, her favorite prayer.

And while on her pillow she softly lay,
She knew nothing more till again it was day—
And all things said to the beautiful sun,
"Good-morning, good-morning, our work is begun." —*Lord Houghton.*

DIALOGUES.

The Songs of the Flowers.

(RECITATIONS BY GIRLS.)

First.—Holding a Bouquet.

Earth is a pleasant home for us,
And God has placed us here
In beauty and in loveliness,
The little ones to cheer.
We live beneath the sunny sky,
To bless them ere we fade and die.

Let us unfold to them sweet thoughts,
To them bright lessons give,
That they may follow wisdom's light,
And learn the way to live;
And so fulfill their destiny,
Ere they, like us, shall fade and die.

Second.—Holding Roses.

The queen-like Rose shall teach them *love;*
For unto all she sends
Her beauty, color, fragrance forth,
Alike to foes and friends;
And thus their kindy deeds must bless
All in their path with happiness.

Third.—Holding Anemone.

Of *time*, so quickly passing, speaks
The frail Anemone;
The everlasting Amaranth
Tells of *eternity.*
The two so linked but by a breath,
Thus teaching them of life in death.

Fourth.—With a Mignonette.

And Mignonette, the modest flower,
Pours forth its fragrant breath,
E'en as it droops and fades away,
Like tender love in death;
And thus their dying love may prove
An earnest of undying love.

Fifth.—Holding Lilies and Violets.

The Lily's leaves of spotless white
Of *purity* shall sing;
And the blue, lowly Violet
Is like an angel's wing,
Lifting the humble soul above
To higher heights of light and love.

Who is arrayed so glorious?
And who hath us arrayed?

He who the children doth ereate,
The simple Lily made.
We are their brothers, sisters, friends,
For o'er us the same Father bends.

All Recite in Concert.

We are a book of many leaves,
All writ of wondrous things:
For every little plant that grows
Its secret lesson brings;
For all who seek of righteousness,
We humbly teach, and, teaching, bless.

The Trees of the Bible.

All.

Let us look through sacred story,
Song, and psalm, until we see,
In their beauty and their glory,
Forms of many a fair, green tree:
Trees that shaded saints and sages,
Trees that waved where prophets trod,
Trees that live through all the ages,
In the aneient word of God.

First.

When the captives wept for Zion,
For her power and glory gone,
What fair tree, with drooping branches,
Hung they sad, their harps upon?

Answer.—"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down; yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the WILLOWS."—Psa. cxxxvii, 1.

Second.

When the prophet sang in story
Zion's grandeur yet to be,
Sang her beauty and her glory,
Spake he then of any tree?

Answer.—"The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the FIR TREE, the PINE TREE, and the Box together, to beautify the plaee of my sanetuary."—Isa. lx, 13.

Third.

When he gives the invitation,
Come, ye thirsting, thirst no more,
How, in joyful proclamation,
Tells he of the good in store?

Answer.—"Instead of the THORN shall eome up the FIR TREE, and instead of the BRIER shall eome up the MYRTLE TREE: and it shall be to the Lord for a name."—Isa. lv, 13.

Fourth.

What says he, when men, forsaking
God most high, the living Lord,
Out of wood their gods are making
That ean never speak a word?

Answer.—"He heweth him down CEDARS, and taketh the CYPRESS and the OAK, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ASH, and the rain doth nourish it. . . . He maketh a god, and worshipeth it."—Isa. xliv, 14, 15.

Fifth.

On the hills and mountains, burning
Incense unto gods thus made,
Israel, far from Zion turning,
Sought what trees' most fragant shade?

Answer.—"They sacrifice upon the tops of the mountains, and burn incense upon the hills, under OAKS and POPLARS and ELMS, because the shadow thereof is good."—Hos. iv, 13.

Sixth.

When another prophet telleth
Of God's judgments, falling fast,
While his heart with sorrow swelleth,
How speaks he of glories past?

Answer.—"The VINE is dried up, and the FIG TREE languisheth; the POMEGRANATE TREE, the PALM TREE also, and the APPLE TREE, even all the trees of the field are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men."—Joel i, 12.

Seventh.

After words of solemn warning
To the people in their sin,
Then what hope, like gleams of dawning,
Through the prophet's voice flows in?

Answer.—"But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, . . .: as a TEIL TREE, and as an OAK, whose substanee is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof."—Isa. vi, 13.

Eighth.

Unto Israel returning,
Hear the promise of his Lord;
God, to his dear ehildren turning,
Speaks to them what preeious word?

Answer.—"I will be as the dew unto Israel: he shall grow as the lily, and east forth his roots as Lebanon. His branches shall spread, and his beauty shall be as the OLIVE TREE."—Hos. xiv, 5, 6.

Ninth.

When God ealled the "weeping prophet,"
When he said, "What dost thou see?"
Lifting up his eyes, what saw he?
Spring's first brightly-blooming tree?

Answer.—"The word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an ALMOND TREE."—Jer. i, 11.

Tenth.

When Elijah's spirit failed him,
And he asked that he might die,
When the angel touched and hailed him,
'Neath what did Elijah lie?

Answer.—"But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a JUNIPER TREE: and he requested for himself that he might die."—1 Kings xix, 4.

Eleventh.

When the Lord directed David
Out to battle how to go,
O'er against what trees, then, said he,
They should come upon the foe?

Answer.—"Come upon them over against the MULBERRY TREES. And it shall be, when thou shalt hear a sound of going in the tops of the MULBERRY TREES, that then thou shalt go out to battle."—1 Chron. xiv, 14, 15.

Twelfth.

What tree, that now on Lebanon
In solemn beauty reigns,
In the grand days of Solomon
Grew, like, upon the plains,
Another tree, whose branches bore
In a far later day,
Zaccheus, who ran on before,
When Jesus passed that way?

Answer.—"And CEDAR TREES made he as the SYCAMORE TREES that are in the low plains in abundance."—2 Chron. ix, 27. "And Zaccheus ran before, and climbed up into a SYCAMORE TREE to see Jesus."—Luke xix, 4.

Thirteenth.

And now what tree, more fair than all,
May priest and prophet see,
And yet its wondrous leaves may fall
To bless both you and me?

Answer.—"In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there* the TREE OF LIFE, which bare twelve *manner of* fruits, *and* yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations."—Rev. xxii, 2.—*M. B. C. Slade.*

"His Banner over me was Love."

(CANT. VI, 4.)

(*Five young girls have each a little banner on which is printed LOVE, and upon which are wreaths of, first, roses; second, lilies; third, buttercups, or dandelions; fourth, daisies; fifth, various field and garden flowers. Each lifts her banner at the last line of her stanza.*)

First. (*Recites.*)—

"*I am the rose of Sharon.*"—Cant. ii, 1.

I went into my garden, the roses blossomed fair;
I wove a garland, fragrant as the myrrh and spices, there;
I thank the Lord that made them—I lift them up above—
"And his banner over me is love."

Second. (*Recites.*)—

"*I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.*"—Cant. ii, 1.

I went into the valley, snowy lilies there I found;
Of them a lovely garland, white and sweet and pure, I bound.
I thank the Lord that made them—I lift them up above—
"And his banner over me is love."

Third. (*Recites.*)—

"*We will make thee borders of gold.*"—Cant. i, 11.

I went into the meadows, and from the grassy mold
I wove for me a garland, a crown of blossom-gold.
I thank the Lord that made them—I lift them up above—
"And his banner over me is love."

Fourth. (*Recites.*)—

"*We will make thee borders of gold with studs of silver.*"—Cant. i, 11.

I went upon the hill-side, and, beautiful and bright,
I wove for me a garland of daisies silver-white.
I thank the Lord that made them—I lift them up above—
"And his banner over me is love."

Fifth. (*Recites.*)—

"*The flowers appear on the earth.*"—Cant. ii, 12.

I went where earth was beautiful with blossoms all around,
I wove for me a garland of all the flowers I found.
I thank the Lord that made them—I lift them up above—
"And his banner over me is love."

Sixth. (*Recites.*)—

"*Lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come.*"—Cant. ii, 11, 12.

I hear the voice of gardens, of meadow, vale, and field;
They weave themselves a garland of all the flowers they yield;
They raise a fragrant chorus to their Maker up above,
For his banner over them is love.

—*M. B. C. Slade.*

Some Wonderful Children's Days.

First.

I know a wonderful Children's Day!
In his palace fair, on a throne of gold,
As he touched his harp, in days of old,
That was a wonderful Children's Day,
When King David was heard to say,

All.—"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord."

Second.

I know a wonderful Children's Day!
In the temple of God, when Jesus came,
As the children's hosannas praised his name,
That was a wonderful Children's Day,
When Jesus himself was heard to say,

All.—"Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise."—Matt. xxi, 16.

Third.

I know a wonderful Children's Day!
O, of all Children's Days the best,
Was the day when Jesus the children blessed.
His disciples wanted to send them away,
But *Jesus loves us*, and thus did say,

All.—"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God."—Mark x, 14.

Voices of the Flowers.

[The following verses may be recited in parts, or as a whole by one scholar, or as a *serial dialogue* by any number from five to twenty. In the latter case it may be illustrated by natural or imitated flowers.]

The flowers of many climes,
That bloom all seasons through,
Met in a stately garden,
Bright with the morning dew.

For praise and loving worship
The Lord they come to meet:
Her box of precious ointment
The Rose broke at his feet.

The Passion-flower his symbols
Wore fondly on her breast;
She spoke of self-denial,
As what might please him best.

The Morning-glories, fragile,
Like infants soon to go,
Had dainty, toy-like trumpets,
And praised the Master so.

"His word is like to honey,"
The Clover testified,
"And all who trust his promise
Shall in his love abide."

The Lilies said: "O trust him.
We neither toil nor spin;
And yet his house of beauty,
See! how we enter in."

The King-cup, and her kindred,
Said: "Let us all be glad,
Of his redundant sunshine,
Behold how we are clad."

And "Let us follow Jesus,"
The Star of Bethlehem said;
And all the band of flowers
Bent down the reverent head.

The glad Sun-flower answered,
And little Daisies bright,
And all the cousin Asters,
"We follow toward the light."

"We praise him for the mountains,"
The Alpine-roses cried;
"We bless him for the valleys,"
The Violets replied.

"We praise him," said the Air-plant,
"For breath we never lack;"
"And for the rocks we praise him,"
The Lichens answered back.

"We praise God for the waters,"
The gray Sea-mosses sighed;
And all his baptized Lilies,
"Amen! Amen!" replied.

"Hosanna, in the highest!"
The baby Bluets sang;
And little trembling Harebells
With softest music rang.

"The winter hath been bitter,
But sunshine follows storm,
Thanks, for his loving-kindness,
The earth's great heart is warm."

So said the pilgrim May-flower,
That cometh after snow,
The humblest and the sweetest
Of all the flowers that grow.

"Thank God for every weather,
The sunshine and the wet,"
Spake out the cheering Pansies
And darling Mignonette.

And then the sun descended,
The heavens were all aglow,
The little Morning-glories
Had faded long ago.

And now the bright Day-lilies
Their love-watch ceased to keep.
"He giveth," said the Poppies,
"To his beloved, sleep."

The gray of evening deepened,
  The soft wind stirred the corn,
When sudden, in the garden,
  Another flower was born.

It was the Evening Primrose,
  Her sisters followed fast,
With perfumed lips they whispered,
  "Thank God for night at last."

ADDRESSES OF SUPERINTENDENTS AND PASTORS.

It is assumed that when superintendents and pastors get their souls fairly imbued with the spirit and objects of the Children's Day services, they will make better addresses, if called for at different stages of the proceedings, than any which can be suggested to them. In all such cases the conditions of success will be *adaptation*, *liveliness*, and *brevity*. If long, prosy, and systematic harangues are ever to be tolerated, they certainly are not on Children's Day. Nevertheless, some lively and impressive presentations of the facts involved in the great enterprise of Christian education, (such as the Annual Reports of the Board give from year to year,) or warm-hearted appeals to the young to profit by the privileges the Church offers them, or to adults for help, may be just what, at certain times and places, are needed to make success both complete and permanent. Let sound discretion dictate both the *when* and the *how*.

HYMNS AND MUSIC.

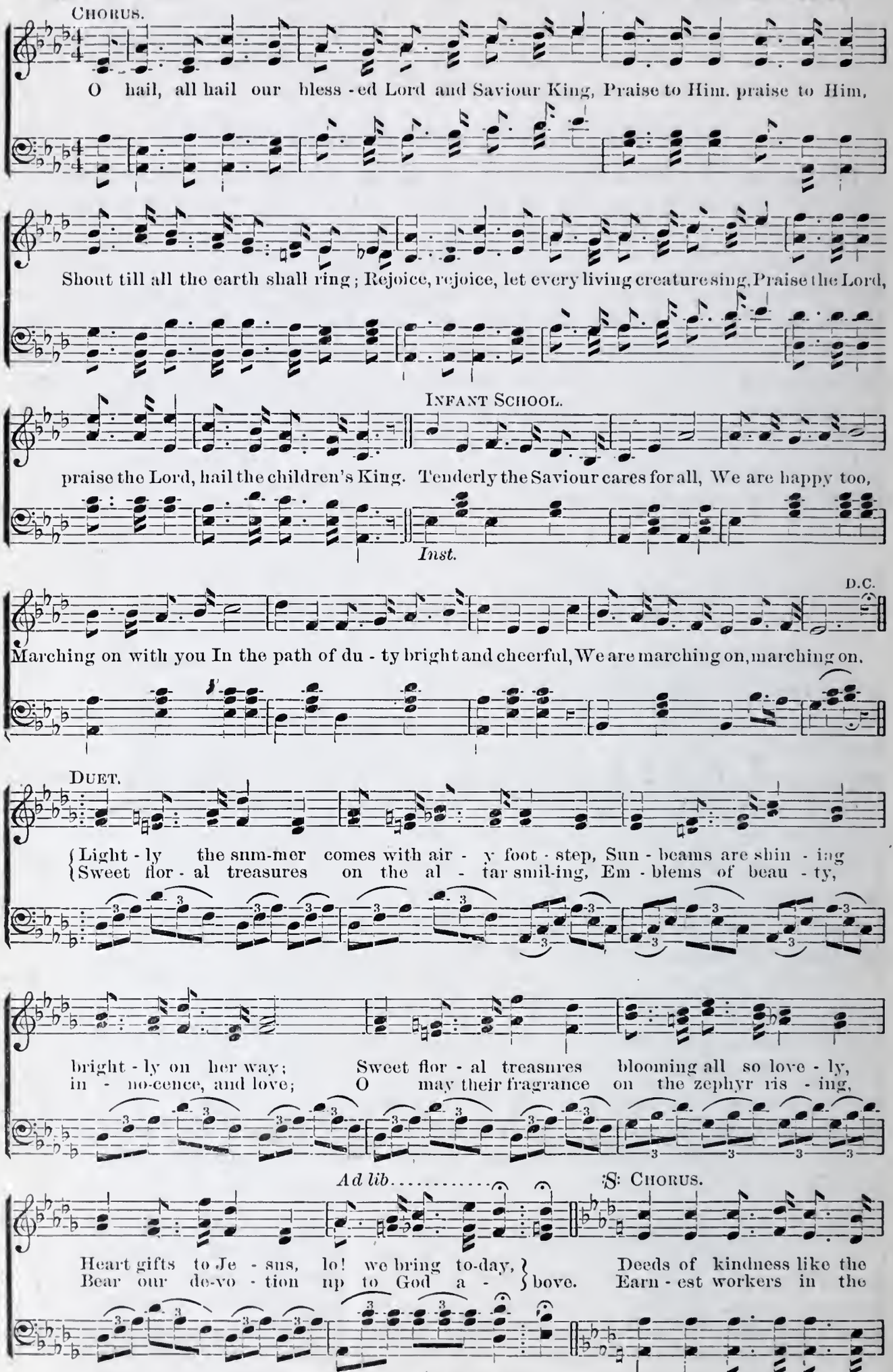
In nothing do tastes differ more than in reference to music. Some would make every thing else yield in the attempt to make new music a feature of each successive Children's Day. Others prefer old tunes with hallowed associations and with little need of practice in preparation. As in most matters, the true course lies between extremes. In all cases there needs to be a wise adaptation to circumstances. Only a short time ago there really were no hymns specially adapted to Children's Day. Music had then to be selected on general principles. But of late it has been found that the day and its objects are full of inspiration to both poets and musical composers. Hence, not to profit by the co-operation of both is to fall behind the progress of our own movement. Yet it is not wise for any cause to surrender too much time to the learning of new tunes.

We shall seek to provide for the exact wants in the case by inserting in our programmes, from year to year, all the new music for which there is space, together with hymns adapted to standard and favorite tunes. Lest these should be insufficient to meet the wants of some, we here subjoin a collection of the choicest new and recent compositions adapted to the occasion, any one of which may be selected for special rendering, and more than one of which, it is hoped, will in due time become recognized as standard music for Children's Day. In this connection we condense from the letter of a pastor the following practical hints:

There should be four or five good hearty singings in the course of each entertainment.

The time required to practice new music is the greatest difficulty I find in its use. When I have it on the programme, or as an addition, I give it to a selected few who I am sure will take an honest pride is producing it with accuracy and spirit. But this will not make undesirable the use of more or less old and popular tunes, which always find an echo in the memory and hearts of both young and old. Such tunes used with choice new words are both inspiring and rejuvenating.

CHILDREN'S DAY ANTHEM.

FANNY J. CROSBY. JOHN R. SWEENEY.

CHORUS.
O hail, all hail our bless - ed Lord and Saviour King, Praise to Him, praise to Him,
Shout till all the earth shall ring; Rejoice, rejoice, let every living creature sing, Praise the Lord,
INFANT SCHOOL.
praise the Lord, hail the children's King. Tenderly the Saviour cares for all, We are happy too,
Inst.
D.C.
Marching on with you In the path of du - ty bright and cheerful, We are marching on, marching on.
DUET.
Light - ly the sum-mer comes with air - y foot - step, Sun - beams are shin - ing
Sweet flor - al treasures on the al - tar smil-ing, Em - blems of beau - ty,
bright - ly on her way; Sweet flor - al treasnres blooming all so love - ly,
in - no-cence, and love; O may their fragrance on the zephyr ris - ing,
Ad lib.
S: CHORUS.
Heart gifts to Je - sus, lo! we bring to-day,
Bear our de-vo - tion up to God a - bove.
Deeds of kindness like the
Earn - est workers in the

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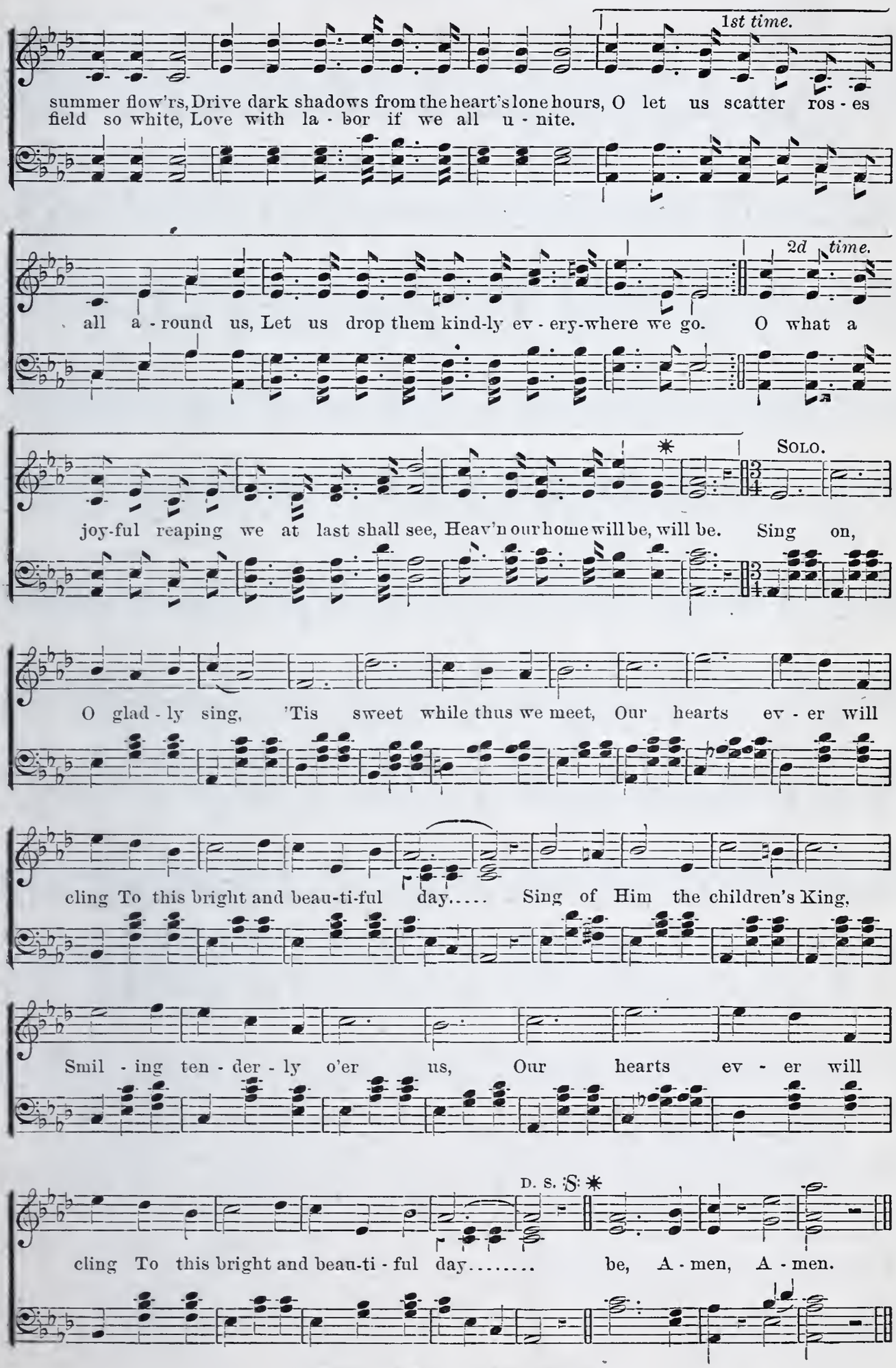
CHILDREN'S DAY ANTHEM.—*Concluded.*

1st time.
summer flow'rs, Drive dark shadows from the heart's lone hours, O let us scatter ros - es
field so white, Love with la - bor if we all u - nite.
2d time.
all a - round us, Let us drop them kind-ly ev - ery-where we go. O what a
Solo.
joy-ful reaping we at last shall see, Heav'n our home will be, will be. Sing on,
O glad - ly sing, 'Tis sweet while thus we meet, Our hearts ev - er will
cling To this bright and beau-ti-ful day..... Sing of Him the children's King,
Smil - ing ten - der - ly o'er us, Our hearts ev - er will
D. S.
cling To this bright and beau-ti - ful day..... be, A - men, A - men.

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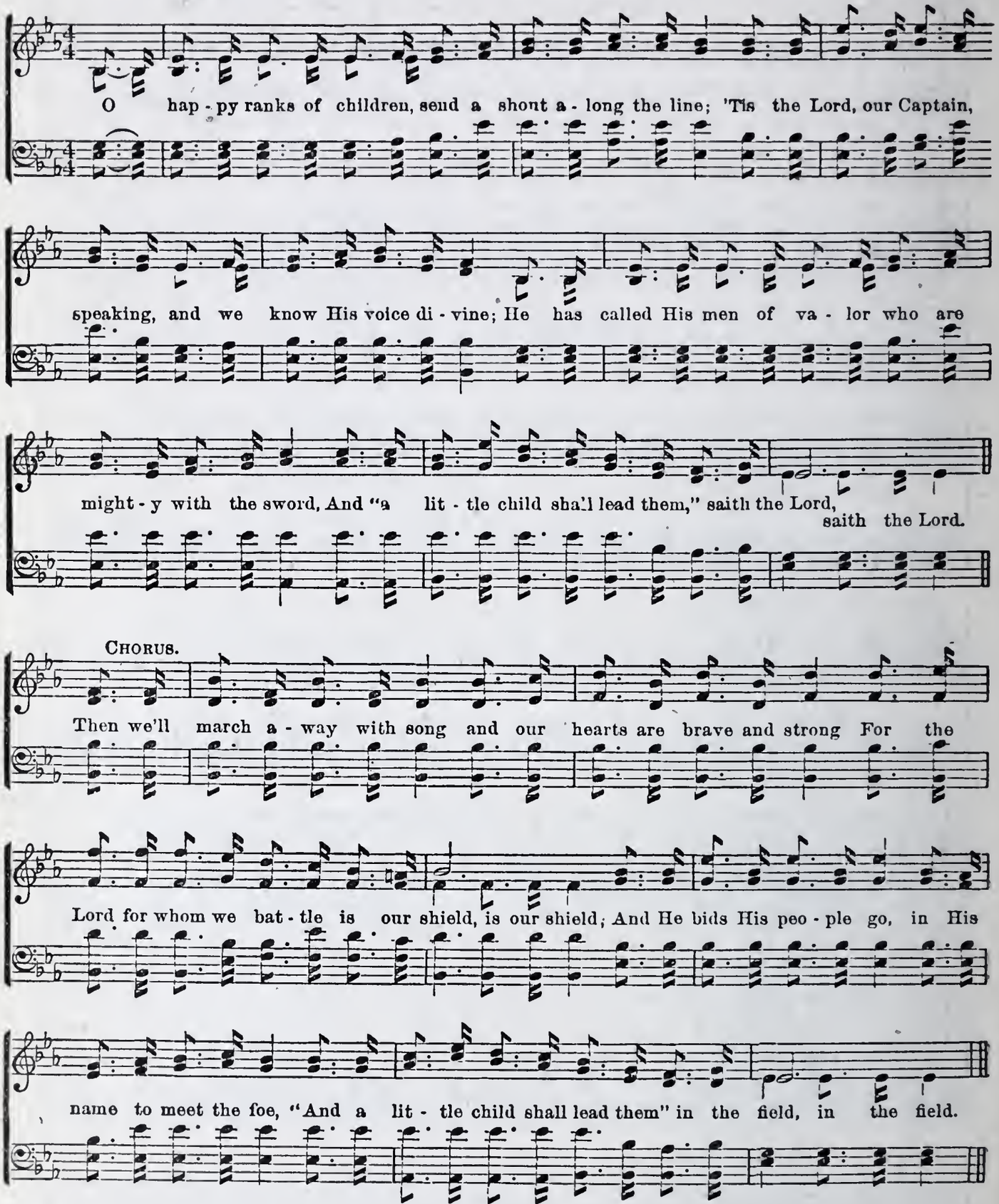
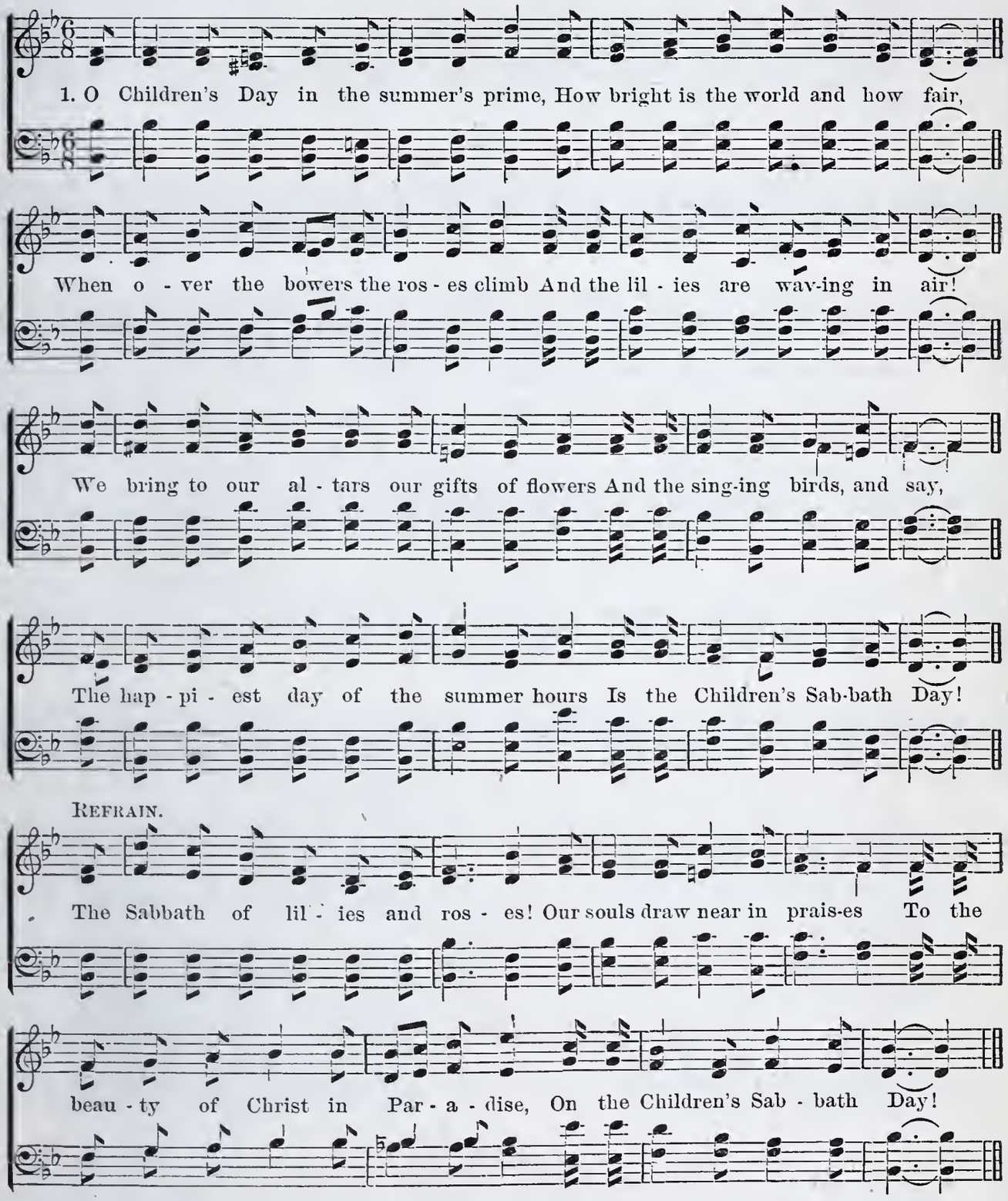
O HAPPY RANKS OF CHILDREN.

MARY A. LATHBURY. "A little child shall lead them." T. F. SEWARD.

O hap - py ranks of children, send a shout a - long the line; 'Tis the Lord, our Captain,
speaking, and we know His voice di - vine; He has called His men of va - lor who are
might - y with the sword, And "a lit - tle child shall lead them," saith the Lord,
saith the Lord.
CHORUS.
Then we'll march a - way with song and our hearts are brave and strong For the
Lord for whom we bat - tle is our shield, is our shield; And He bids His peo - ple go, in His
name to meet the foe, "And a lit - tle child shall lead them" in the field, in the field.

2 Not by might and not by power should the holy cause be won,
But God shall conquer for us by the Spirit of his Son.
When the strong shall faint and falter, and the great shall lose the day,
"A little child shall lead them" in the way.
Chorus.

3 O holy work of leading that the little one may do,
Who follow Christ, our Captain, and are trying to be true;
While he calls his wayward people into love and service sweet,
"A little child shall lead them" to his feet.
Chorus.

O CHILDREN'S DAY!

HEZEKIAH BUTTERWORTH. W. F. SHERWIN.

1. O Children's Day in the summer's prime, How bright is the world and how fair,
When o - ver the bowers the ros - es climb And the lil - ies are wav-ing in air!
We bring to our al - tars our gifts of flowers And the sing-ing birds, and say,
The hap - pi - est day of the summer hours Is the Children's Sab-bath Day!
REFRAIN.
The Sabbath of lil - ies and ros - es! Our souls draw near in prais-es To the
beau - ty of Christ in Par - a - dise, On the Children's Sab - bath Day!

2 To-day the censers of roses swing,
More sweet than the censers of gold;
The birds at the altar sweetly sing,
As they sung in the temple of old.
We joyfully sing, 'mid the birds and flowers,
To the praise of God, and say,
The beautiful time of the summer hours
Is the Children's Sabbath Day!
Refrain.

3 O who is Sharon's fair Rose to-day?
And who is the Lily so white?
And whose is the love that leads our way
To the gardens of Paradise bright?
At Jesus' dear feet we will cast our flowers,
And our off'rings there we lay,
Rejoicing that gifts of his love are ours
On the Children's Sabbath Day!
Refrain.

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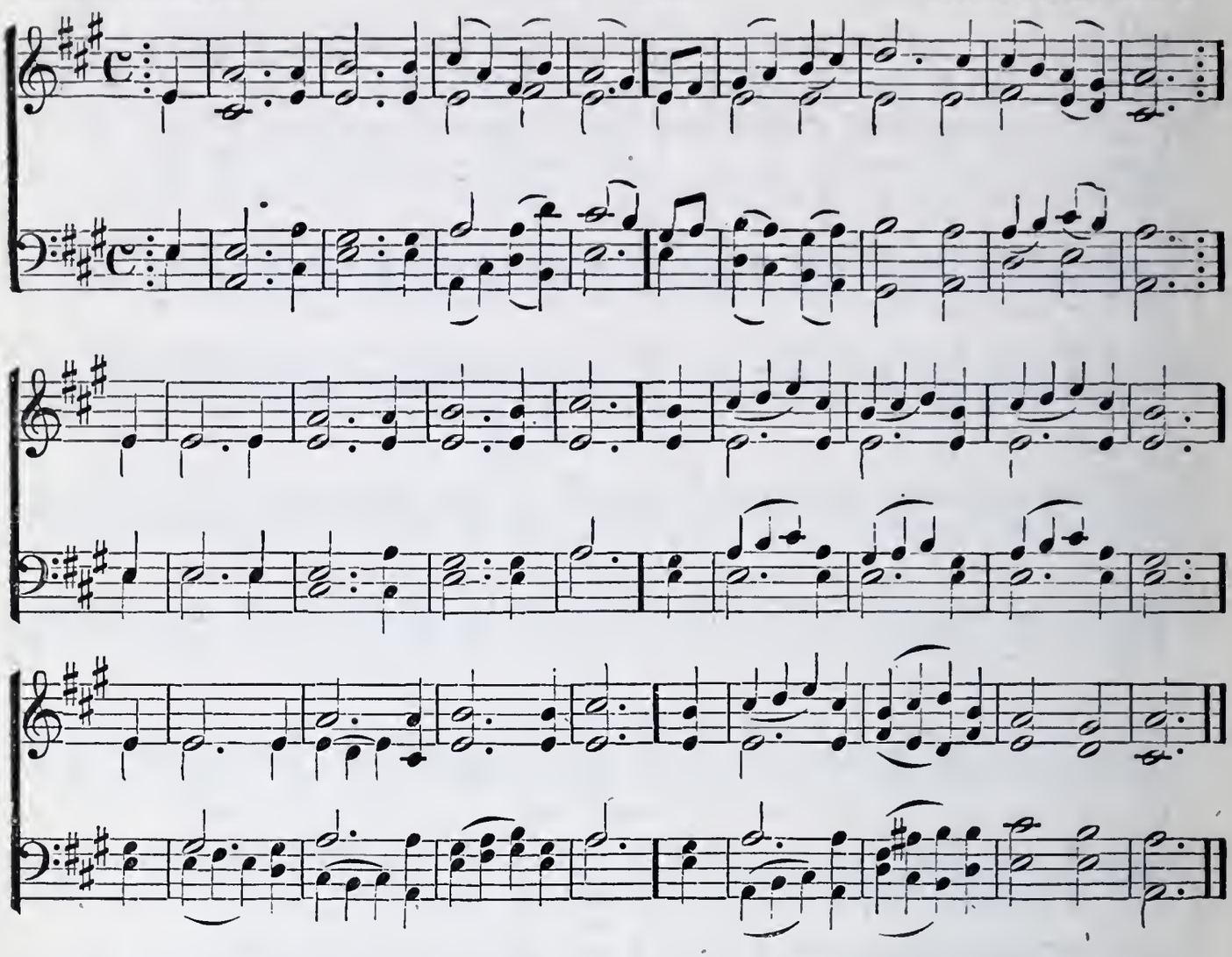
THE ROSE OF SHARON.

Rev. F. Bottome, D.D. Tune, "Creation." Francis Joseph Haydn.



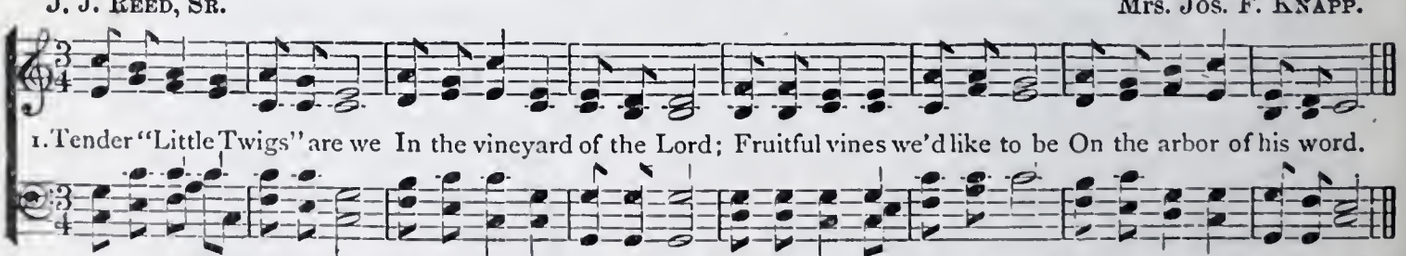
1 We come, we come, with flowers of June,
With joyful hearts and cheerful tune,
And sing, in gladsome roundelay,
The fresh return of Children's Day.
O'er every land, and every sea,
One swelling song of jubilee
Ascends to heaven, with sweet accord,
To praise the name of Christ, our Lord.

2 The children's Friend, the children's King,
Our early praise to him we bring;
More fragrant shall our homage rise
Than flame of perfumed sacrifice.
The Rose of Sharon, him they sung
In olden time, with joyful tongue;
And he, the Rose of Sharon still,
Shall all the world with fragrance fill.

3 We come to him who bade us come
And make his tender heart our home;
And in his courts our love we pay,
And crown him Lord of Children's Day.
We come, we come, in summer's prime,
To chant his praises all sublime;
The children's Friend!—o'er land and sea
Shall swell the children's jubilee.

LITTLE TWIGS.

J. J. Reed, Sr. Mrs. Jos. F. Knapp.



2 By and by the frost will come—
But the vine will never die;
Then transplanted we'll go home
To the gardens of the sky.

3 There will be an endless spring,
Dews of love will ever fall;
Children choirs will sweetly sing
Praises to the Lord of all.

4 Tender "Little Twigs" are we,
Clinging to the parent vine,
Sweetly making melody
To the Son of God divine.

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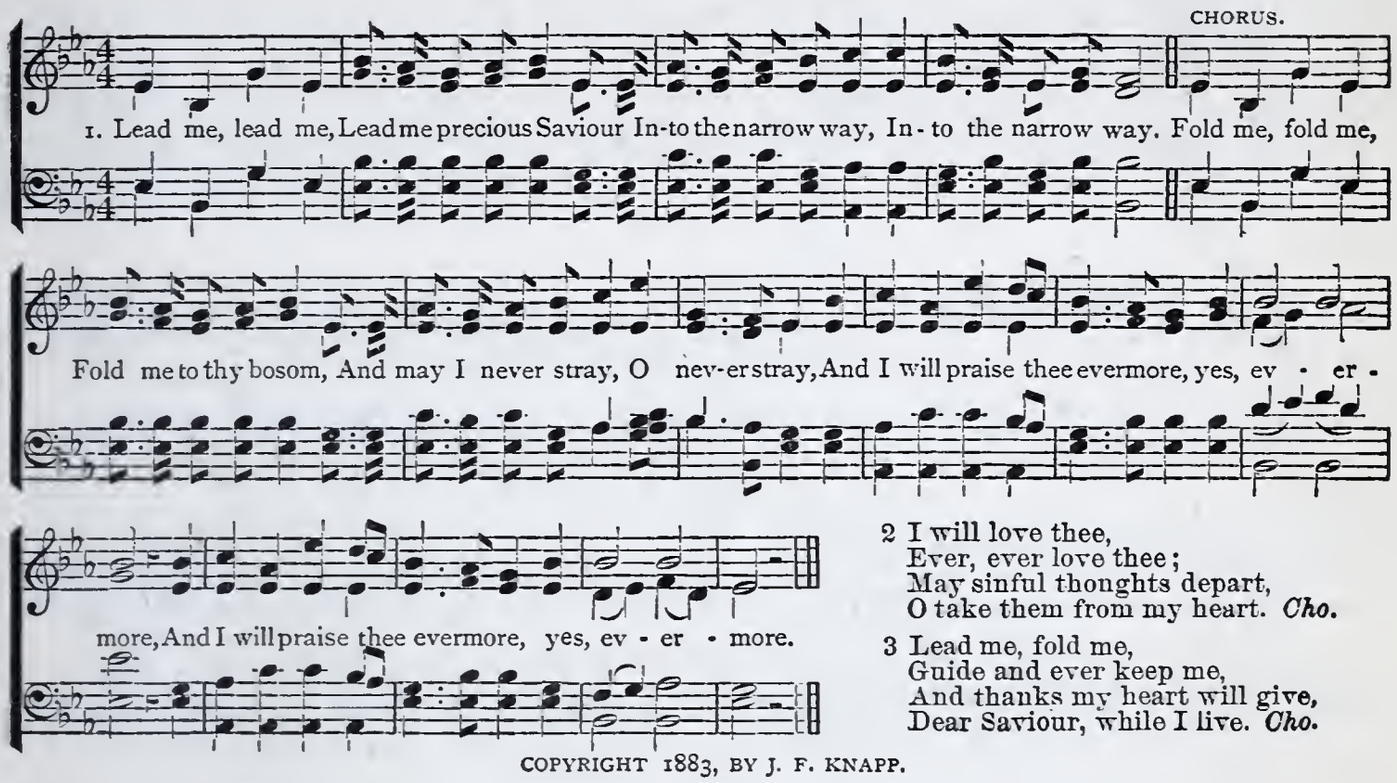
LEAD ME, PRECIOUS SAVIOUR.

Mrs. Jos. F. Knapp.


CHORUS.
1. Lead me, lead me, Lead me precious Saviour In-to the narrow way, In-to the narrow way. Fold me, fold me,
Fold me to thy bosom, And may I never stray, O nev-er stray, And I will praise thee evermore, yes, ev - er -
more, And I will praise thee evermore, yes, ev - er - more.

2 I will love thee,
Ever, ever love thee;
May sinful thonghts depart,
O take them from my heart. *Cho.*

3 Lead me, fold me,
Guide and ever keep me,
And thanks my heart will give,
Dear Saviour, while I live. *Cho.*

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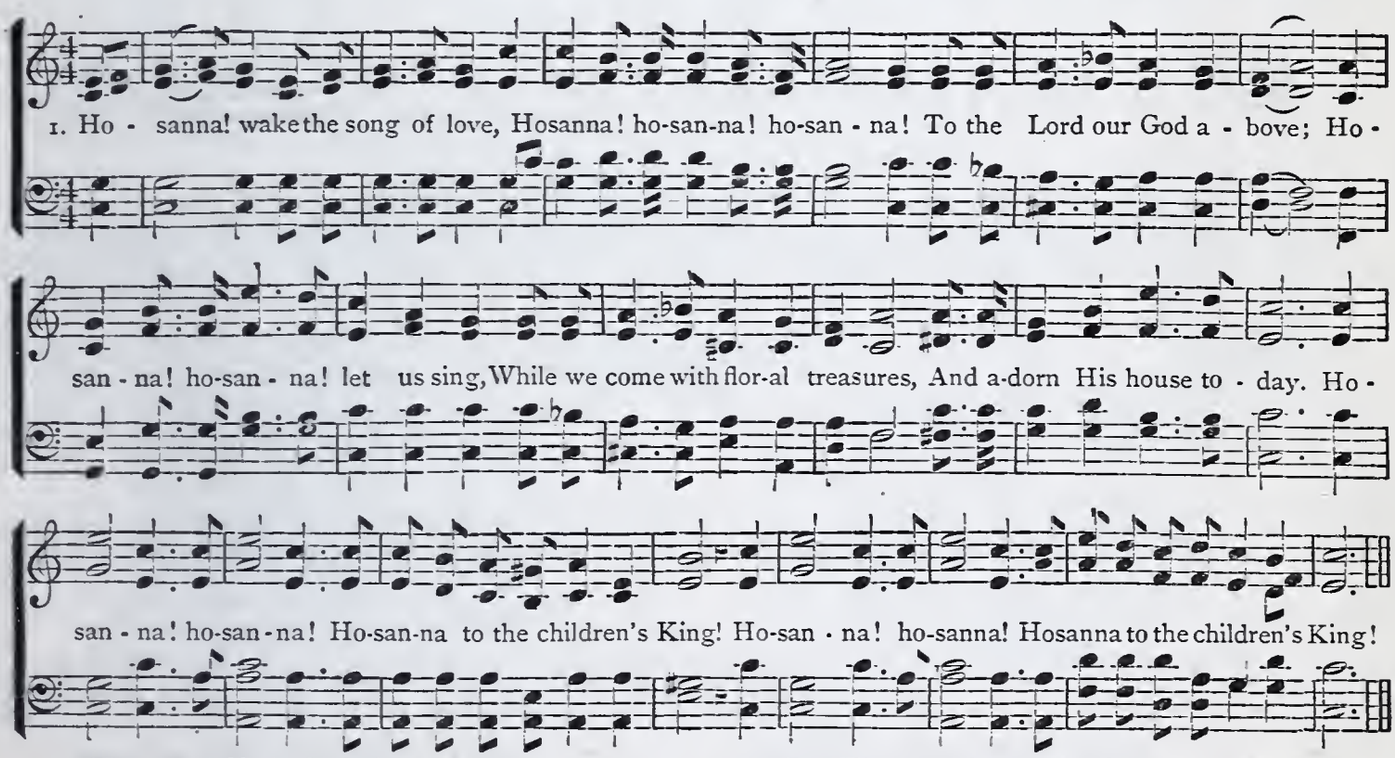
THE CHILDREN'S HOSANNA.

Mrs. Jos. F. Knapp.


1. Ho - sanna! wake the song of love, Hosanna! ho-san-na! ho-san - na! To the Lord our God a - bove; Ho -
san - na! ho-san - na! let us sing, While we come with flor-al treasures, And a-dorn His house to - day. Ho -
san - na! ho-san - na! Ho-san-na to the children's King! Ho-san - na! ho-sanna! Hosanna to the children's King!

2 Hosanna! He is God alone,
Hosanna! hosanna! hosanna!
Raise in every heart His thro ie;
Hosanna! hosanna let us sing;
May the sweet perfume ascending,
Waft to Him our praise to-day!
‖: Hosanna! hosanna!
Hosanna to the children's King! :‖

3 Hosanna! shout aloud for joy;
Hosanna! hosanna! hosanna!
Let His praise our tongues employ;
Hosanna! hosanna let us sing;
Let His name be crowned with glory,
While we hail our festal day;
‖: Hosanna! hosanna!
Hosanna to the children's King! :‖

4 Hosanna! hark, the mighty song;
Hosanna! hosanna! hosanna!
Like an ocean rolls along,
Hosanna! hosanna let us sing;
All the world shall hear the echo,
All the world shall join the song;
‖: Hosanna! hosanna!
Hosanna to the children's King! :‖

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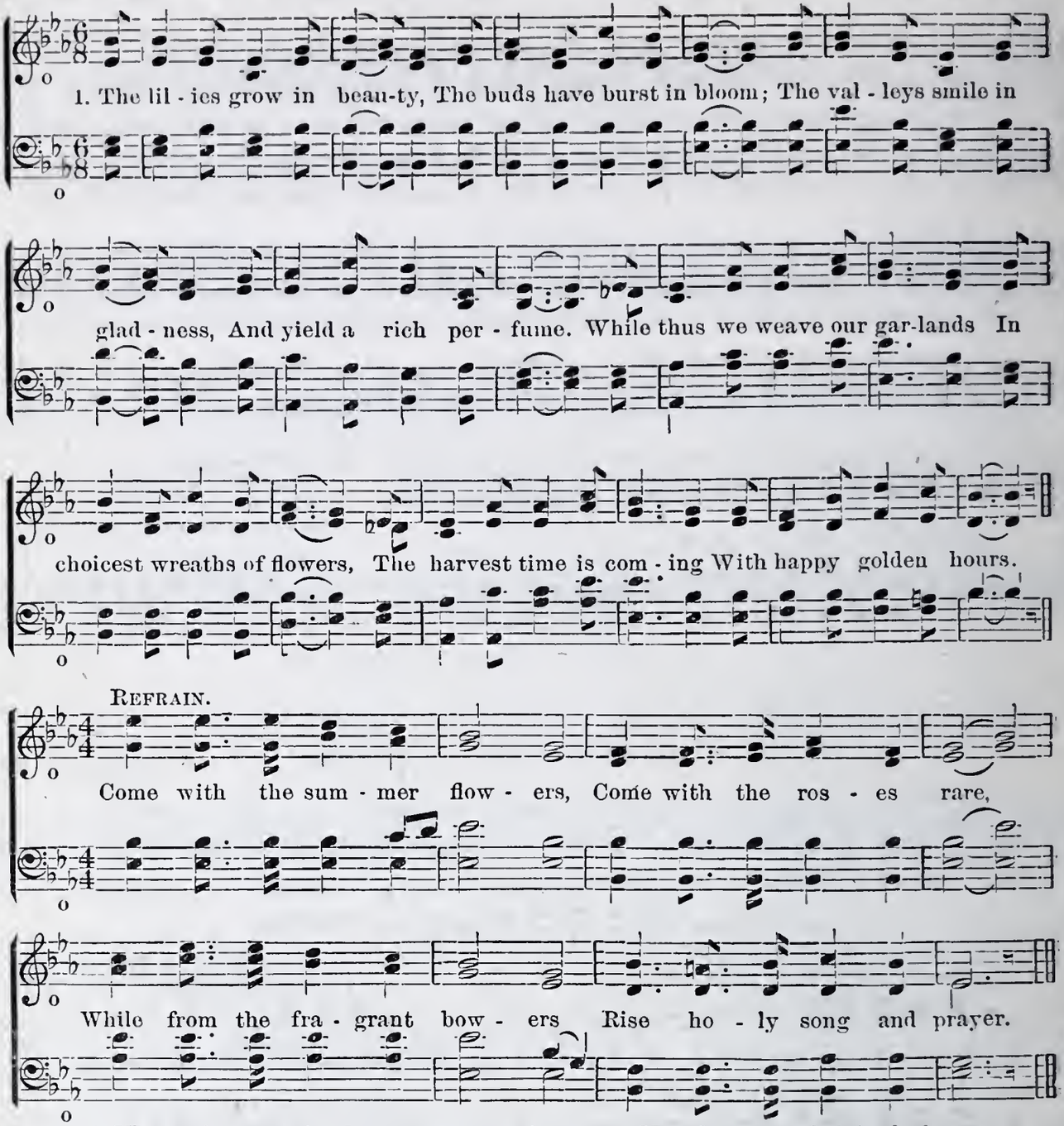
CHILDREN'S DAY.

Rev. JOHN O. FOSTER, A.M. W. F. SHERWIN.

1. The lil - ies grow in beau-ty, The buds have burst in bloom; The val - leys smile in
glad - ness, And yield a rich per - fume. While thus we weave our gar-lands In
choicest wreaths of flowers, The harvest time is com - ing With happy golden hours.
REFRAIN.
Come with the sum - mer flow - ers, Come with the ros - es rare,
While from the fra - grant bow - ers Rise ho - ly song and prayer.

2 We see in nature's glory
A type of joys to come;
And earth's bright colors tell us
Of our eternal home,
Where never-fading beauty
The glorious fields shall wear,
And rest and love forever
Are in the mansions there.
Refrain.

3 New hopes are bright before us,
And peace is flowing on;
While music cheers our footsteps,
And thus the moments run.
So, while the summer sunshine
Is painting rainbows bright,
Our hearts shall bless the Saviour,
The Life, the Truth, the Light.
Refrain.

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CHILDREN'S JOY.

Rev. J. J. REED. Tune, "Arlington," Hymnal, p. 15.

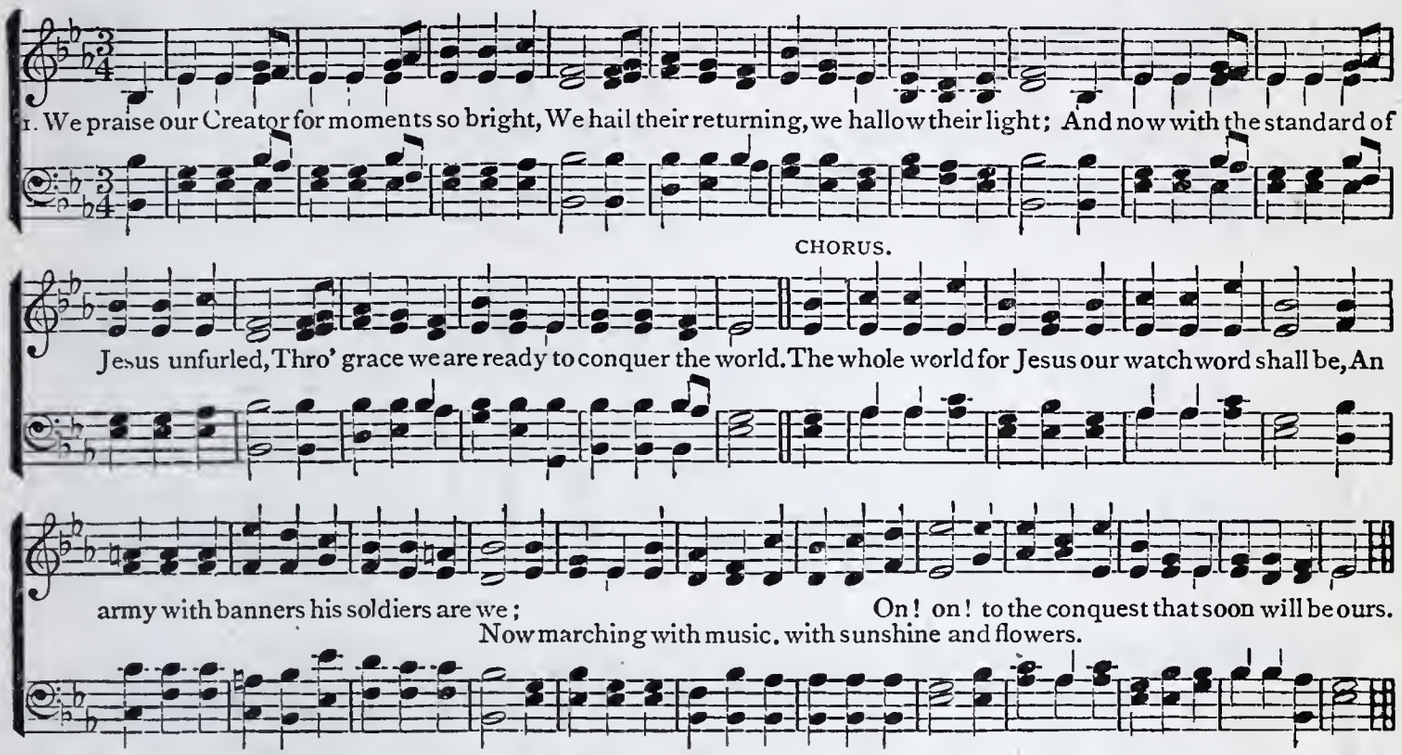
1 With joy we hail the Children's Day,
With gratitude we meet,
The heart's glad tribute now to pay
Before the mercy-seat.

2 The buds and blooms of rosy June
With fragrance fill the air,
And put our thankful hearts in tune,
God's goodness to declare.

3 In concert sweet, with one accord,
The birds our chorus swell,
And join our praises to the Lord
In valley, hill, and dell.

4 Smile, Father, on the Children's Day,
And draw some hearts to thee;
Let Gospel light direct our way,
And grace our watchword be.

FLORAL MISSION HYMN.

FANNY J. CROSBY. Mrs. JOS. F. KNAPP.

1. We praise our Creator for moments so bright, We hail their returning, we hallow their light; And now with the standard of
CHORUS.
Jesus unfurled, Thro' grace we are ready to conquer the world. The whole world for Jesus our watchword shall be, An
army with banners his soldiers are we;
On! on! to the conquest that soon will be ours.
Now marching with music, with sunshine and flowers.

2 How freely the summer her tribute has brought,
She gave us the roses and lilies we sought;
Thus freely to Jesus our talents we give,
For him will we labor as long as we live. *Cho.*

3 We praise our Creator for blossoms that grow
By fountains of knowledge whose streams ever flow;
Love's blossoms that fade not and these would we bring
To Jesus our Saviour, Redeemer, and King. *Cho.*

4 Dear Saviour, go with us wherever we go,
Thy truth in its grandeur O help us to show;
And when we have conquered thro' faith and thy love,
Receive us, we pray thee, to mansions above. *Cho.*

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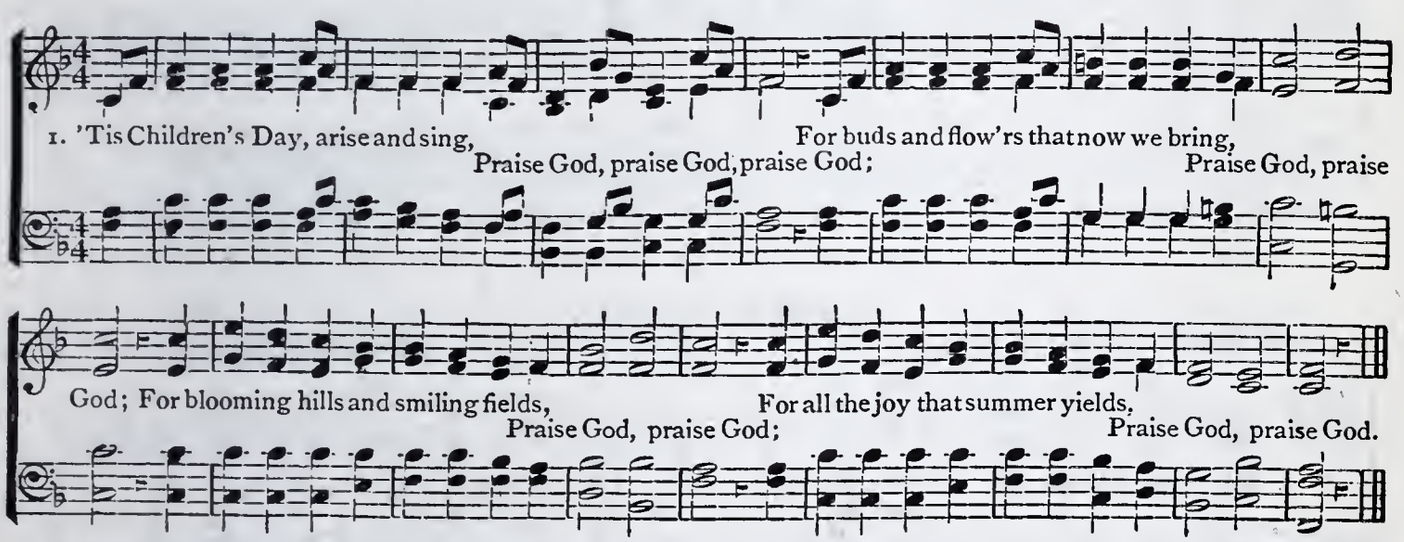
THE CHILDREN'S PRAISE ANTHEM.

Mrs. JOS. F. KNAPP.


1. 'Tis Children's Day, arise and sing, For buds and flow'rs that now we bring,
Praise God, praise God, praise God; Praise God, praise
God; For blooming hills and smiling fields, For all the joy that summer yields,
Praise God, praise God; Praise God, praise God.

2 For hearts that now with joy expand,
Praise God, praise God, praise God;
For peace that crowns our favored land,
Praise God, praise God;
For wisdom's lamp to guide our youth,
Praise God, praise God;
For springs of knowledge, love, and truth,
Praise God, praise God.

3 While raptured saints and angels cry,
"Praise God, praise God, praise God;"
Let every heart and soul reply,
"Praise God, praise God;"
Till at the pearly gates of light,
Praise God, praise God;
The bliss of earth and heaven unite,
Praise God, praise God.

4 Not here shall end the Children's Day,
Praise God, praise God, praise God;
Its tidal wave shall sweep along,
Praise God, praise God;
Till all the world take up the strain,
Praise God, praise God;
And shout aloud the glad refrain,
Praise God, praise God.

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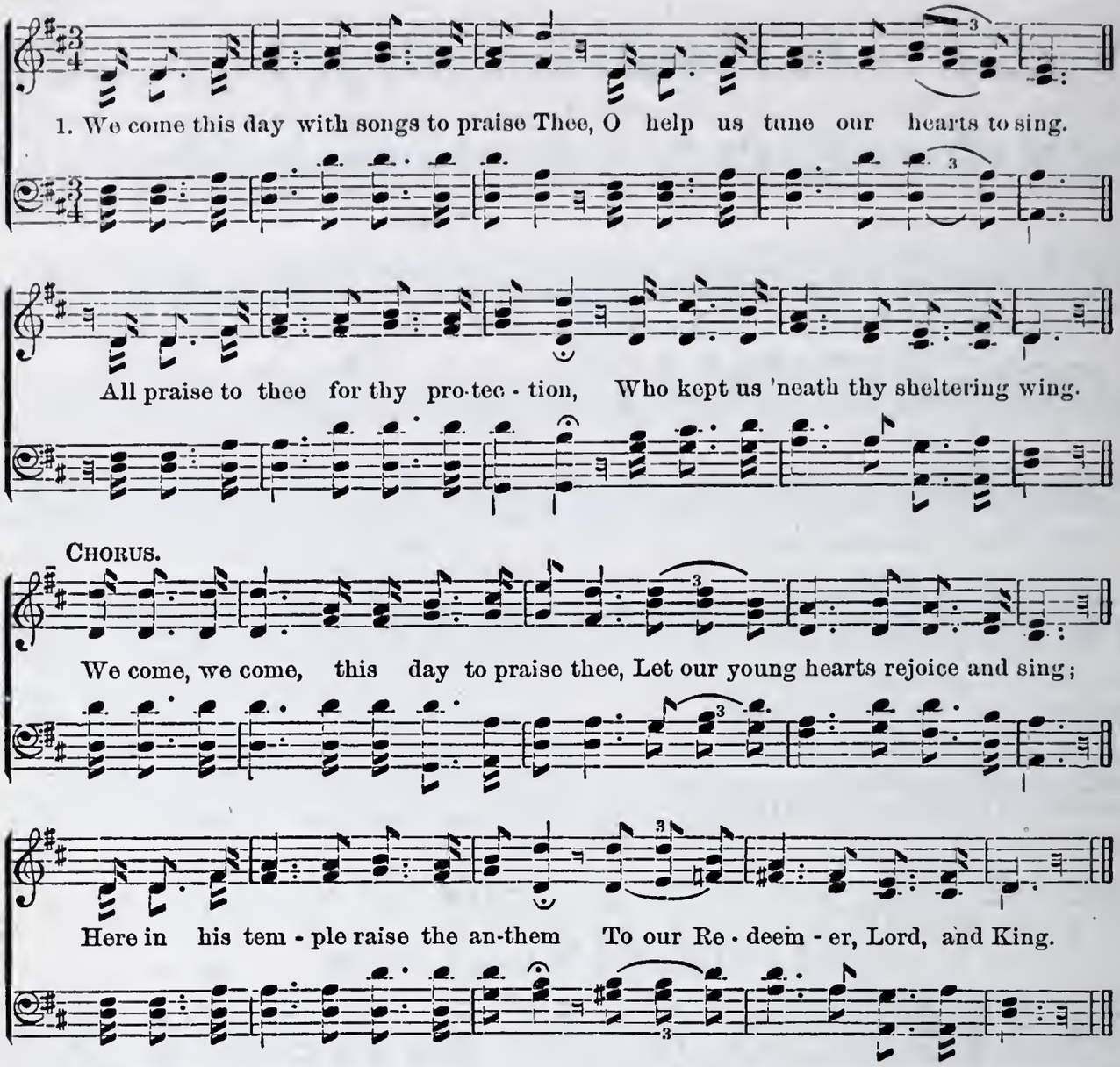
OUR JUNE ANNIVERSARY.

L. F. L. L. F. Lindsay.

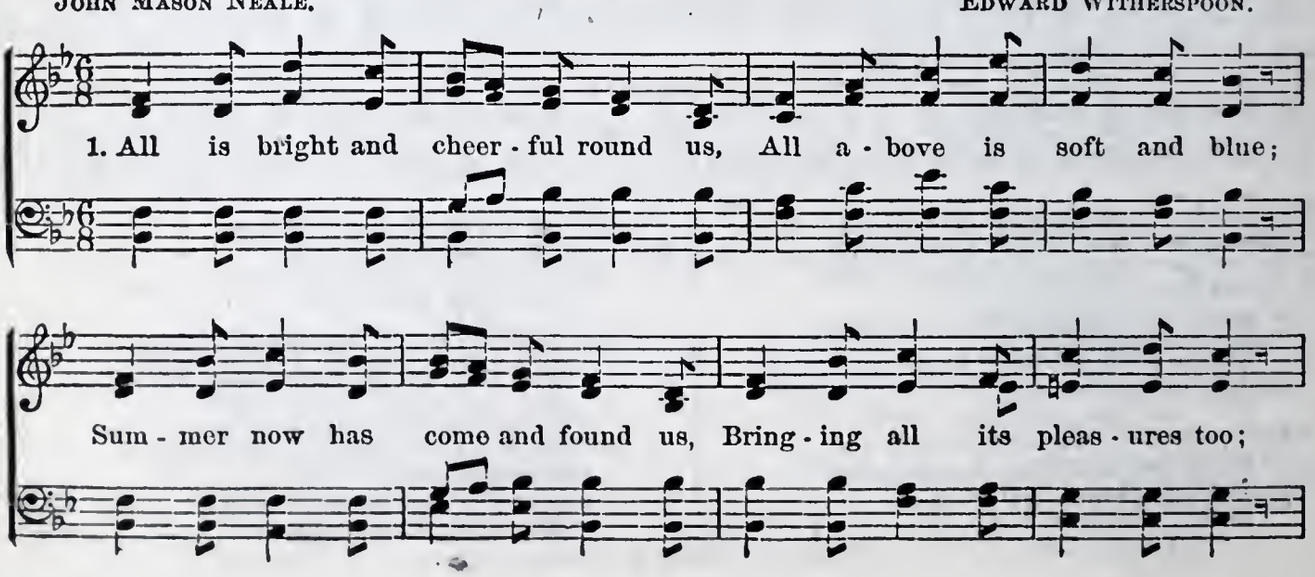

1. We come this day with songs to praise Thee, O help us tune our hearts to sing.
All praise to thee for thy pro-tec-tion, Who kept us 'neath thy sheltering wing.
Chorus.
We come, we come, this day to praise thee, Let our young hearts rejoice and sing;
Here in his tem-ple raise the an-them To our Re-deem-er, Lord, and King.

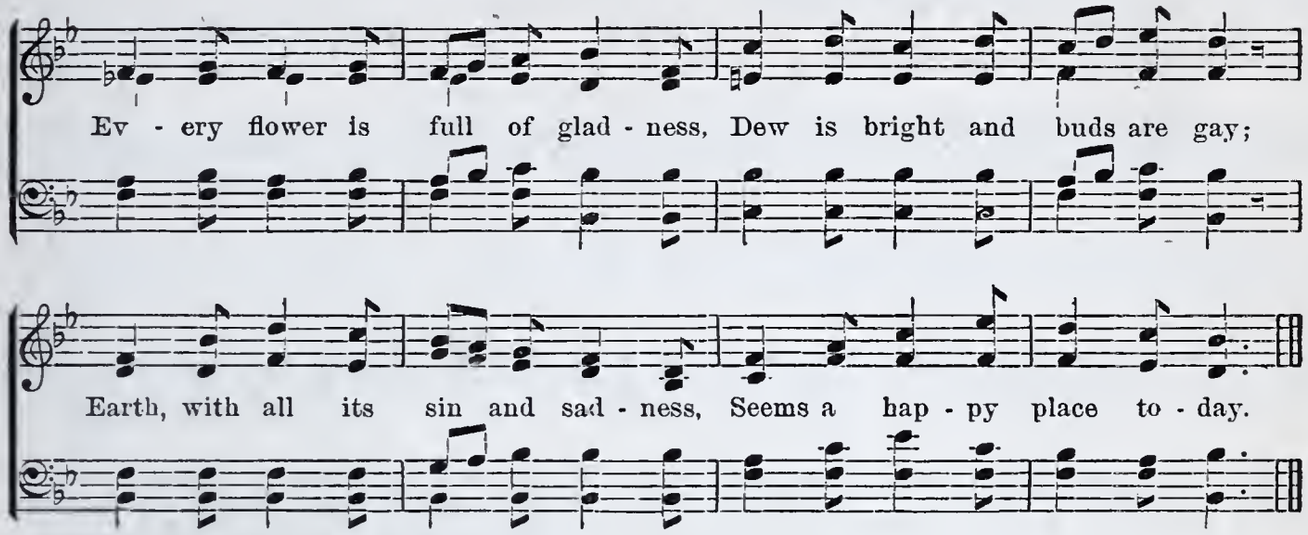
2 We praise thee, Lord, for birds and flowers,
We praise thee, Lord, for teachers dear,
We praise thee, Lord, for home and kindred,
And all the blessings of the year.—*Chorus.*

3 We praise thee, Lord, 'midst joy and sadness,
As through the year thou lead'st us on;
We praise thee too for life and gladness,
O! lead us through the coming one.—*Chorus.*

SUMMER GLORIES.

John Mason Neale. Edward Witherspoon.


1. All is bright and cheer-ful round us, All a-bove is soft and blue;
Sum-mer now has come and found us, Bring-ing all its pleas-ures too;

SUMMER GLORIES.—*Continued.*

Ev - ery flower is full of glad - ness, Dew is bright and buds are gay;
Earth, with all its sin and sad - ness, Seems a hap - py place to - day.

2 If the flowers that fade so quickly,
If a day that ends in night,
If the skies, that clouds so quickly
Often cover from our sight—
If they all have so much beauty,
What must be God's land of rest,
Where his sons that do their duty
After many toils are blest?

3 There are leaves that never wither;
There are flowers that ne'er decay;
Nothing evil goeth thither,
Nothing good is kept away;
They that came from tribulation,
Washed their robes and made them white,
Out of every tongue and nation,
Now have rest and peace and light.

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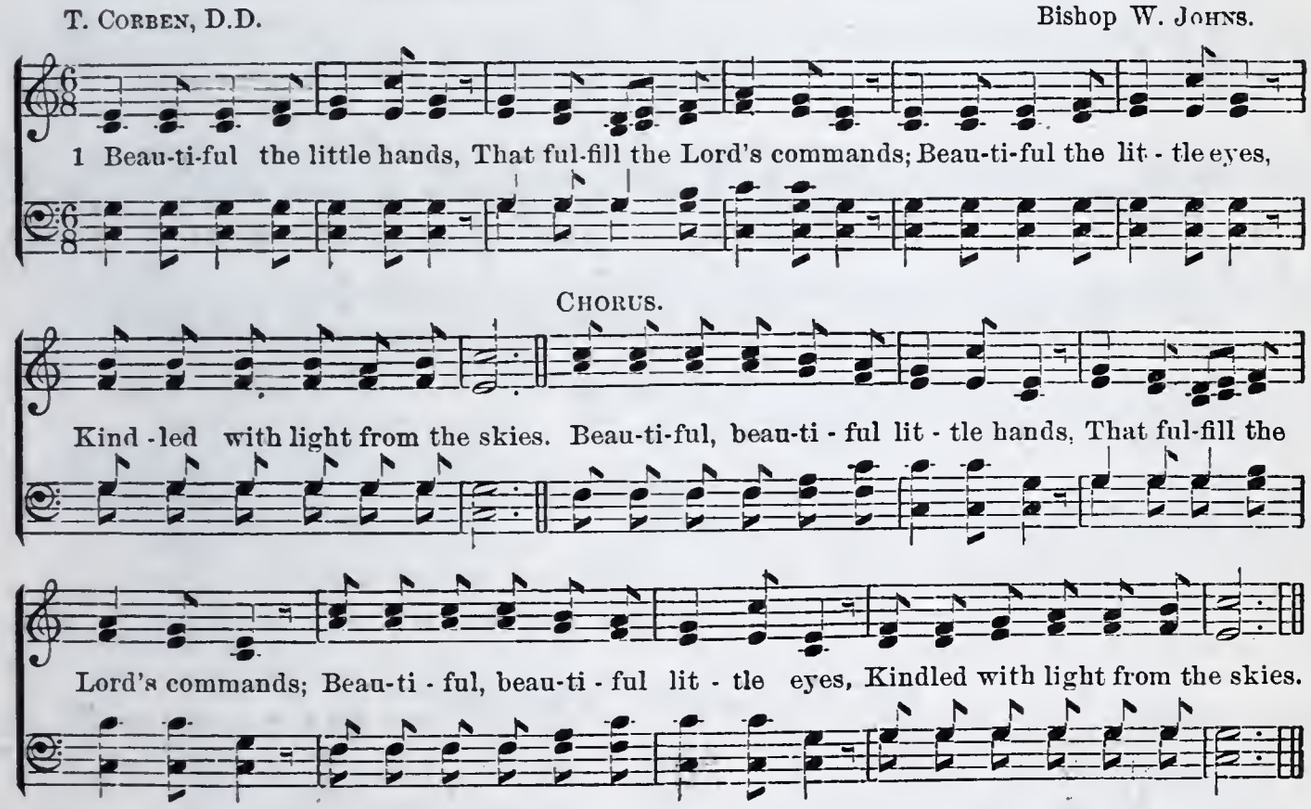
BEAUTIFUL THE LITTLE HANDS.

T. CORBEN, D.D. Bishop W. JOHNS.


1 Beau-ti-ful the little hands, That ful-fill the Lord's commands; Beau-ti-ful the lit - tle eyes,
CHORUS.
Kind - led with light from the skies. Beau-ti-ful, beau-ti - ful lit - tle hands, That ful-fill the
Lord's commands; Beau-ti - ful, beau-ti - ful lit - tle eyes, Kindled with light from the skies.

2 All the little hands were made,
Jesus' precious cause to aid;
All the little hearts to beat
Warm in his service so sweet.—*Cho.*

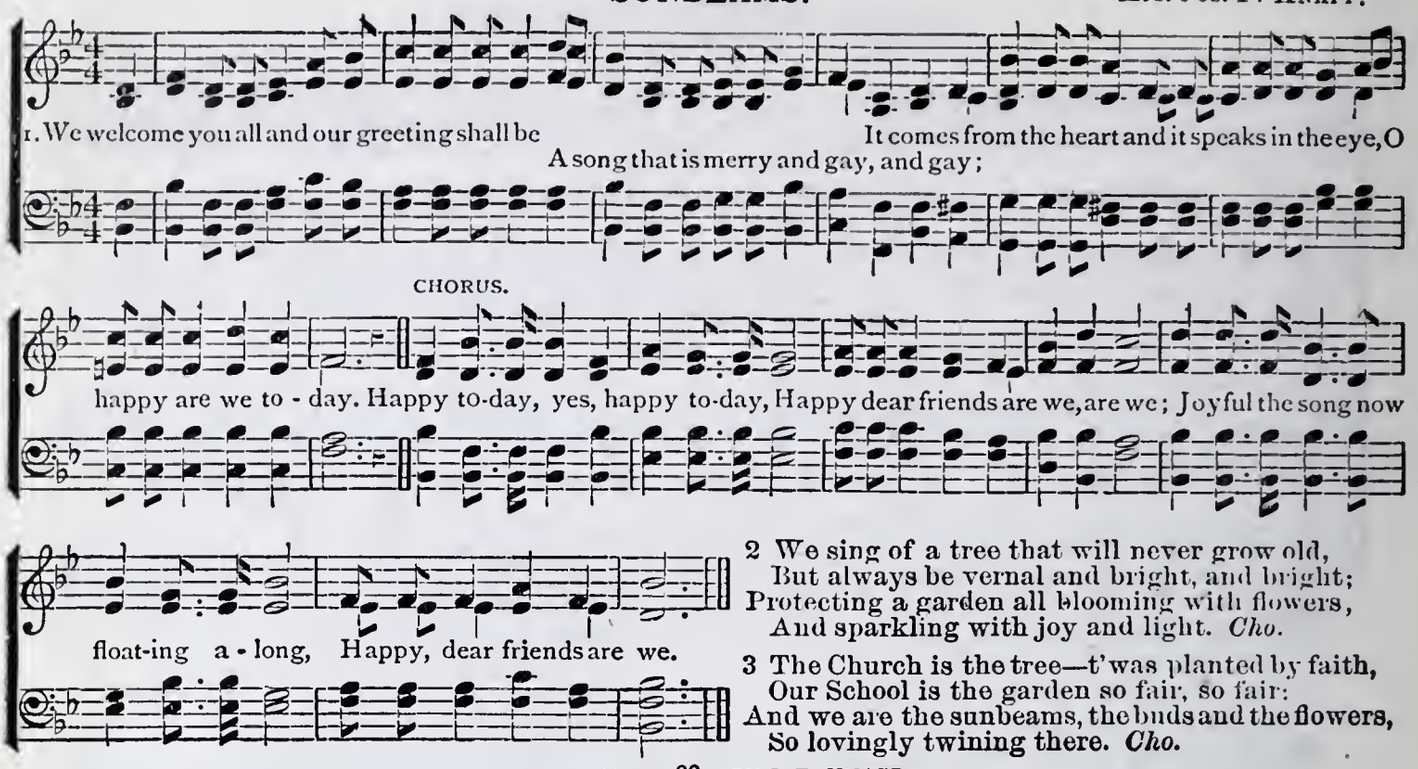
3 All the little lips should pray
To the Saviour, ev'ry day;
All the little feet should go
Swift on his errands below.—*Cho.*

4 What your little hands can do,
That the Lord intends for you;
Make that thing your first delight,
Do it to him with your might.—*Cho.*

[From "Gospel Bells." By special permission of H. A. Sumner & Co., Chicago.]

SUNBEAMS.

Mrs. Jos. F. Knapp.


1. We welcome you all and our greeting shall be It comes from the heart and it speaks in the eye, O
A song that is merry and gay, and gay;
CHORUS.
happy are we to - day. Happy to-day, yes, happy to-day, Happy dear friends are we, are we; Joyful the song now
float-ing a - long, Happy, dear friends are we.

2 We sing of a tree that will never grow old,
But always be vernal and bright, and bright;
Protecting a garden all blooming with flowers,
And sparkling with joy and light. *Cho.*

3 The Church is the tree—t'was planted by faith,
Our School is the garden so fair, so fair:
And we are the sunbeams, the buds and the flowers,
So lovingly twining there. ***Cho.***

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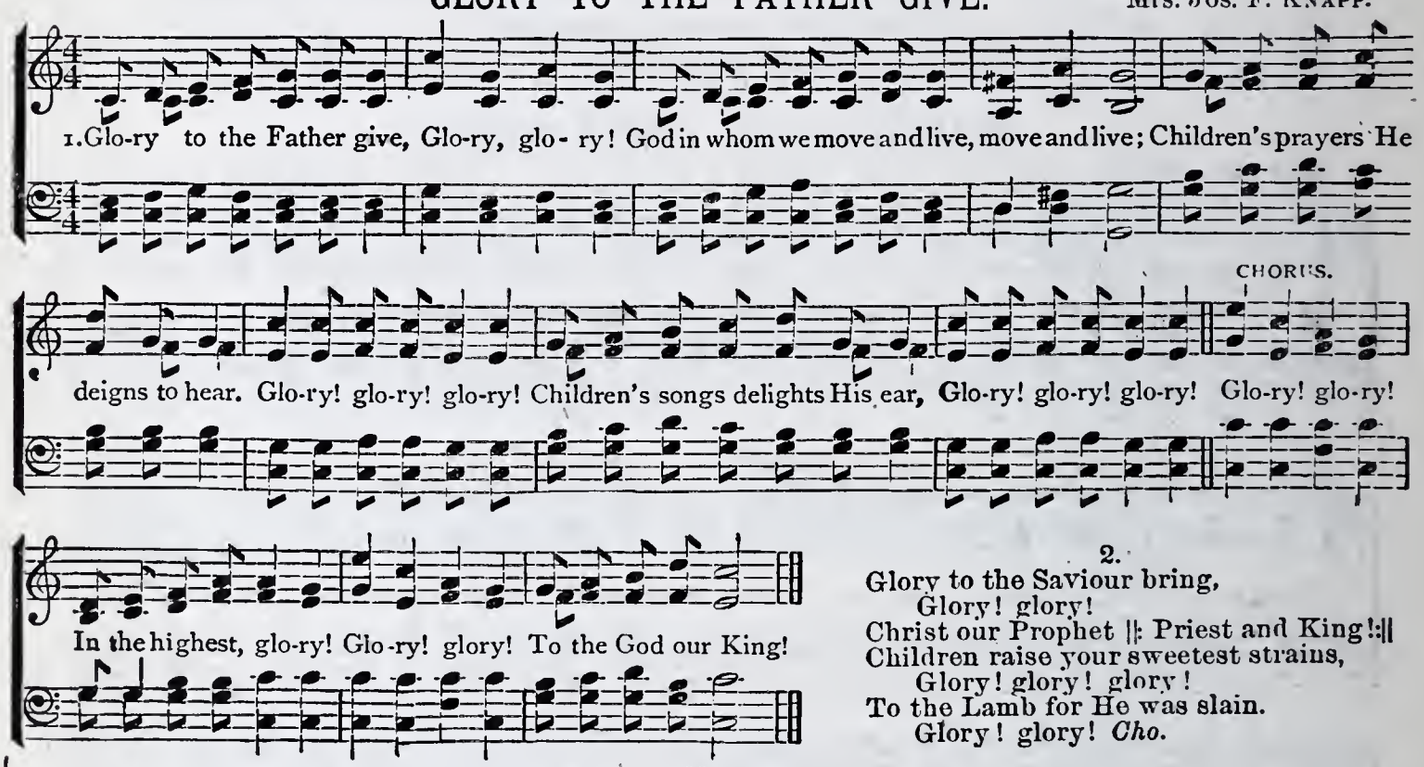
GLORY TO THE FATHER GIVE.

Mrs. Jos. F. Knapp.


1. Glo-ry to the Father give, Glo-ry, glo - ry! God in whom we move and live, move and live; Children's prayers He
CHORUS.
deigns to hear. Glo-ry! glo-ry! glo-ry! Children's songs delights His ear, Glo-ry! glo-ry! glo-ry! Glo-ry! glo-ry!
In the highest, glo-ry! Glo-ry! glory! To the God our King!

2.
Glory to the Saviour bring,
Glory! glory!
Christ our Prophet ||: Priest and King!:||
Children raise your sweetest strains,
Glory! glory! glory!
To the Lamb for He was slain.
Glory! glory! *Cho.*

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THE CHILDREN'S WELCOME.

Rev. James Curns.

(Tune, "Aletta," Hymnal, p. 77.)

Welcome! welcome! one and all,
Old and young and great and small;
Here we meet to praise and pray,
This is happy Children's Day.

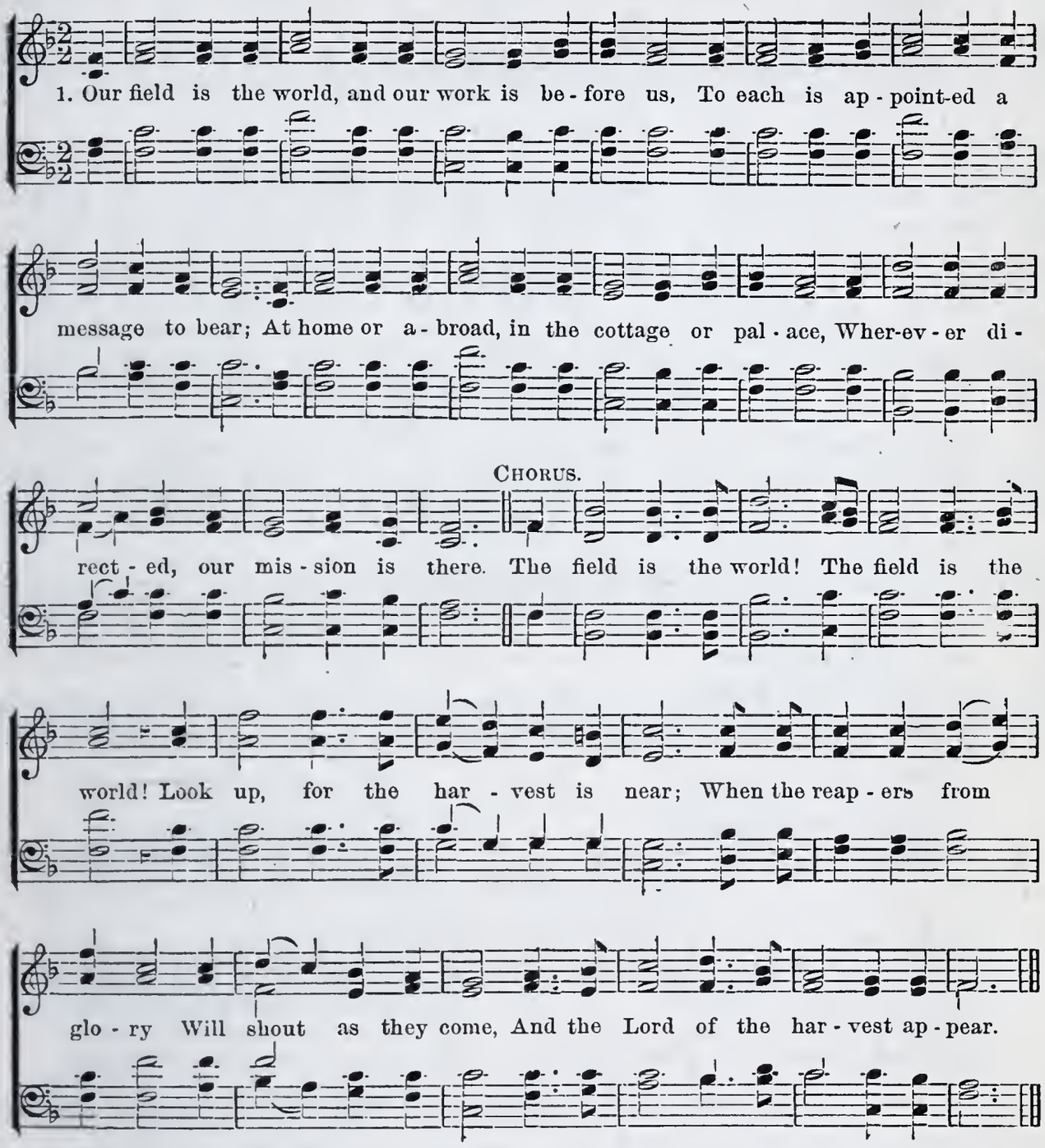
God has spared us through the year,
And in mercy brings us here;
We will praise him while we may,
For this glorious Children's Day.

Here 'mid singing birds and flowers,
And fresh wreaths from nature's bowers,
We unite, both grave and gay,
To enjoy our Children's Day.

On the altar of our God,
Sprinkled with the Saviour's blood,
Heart and mind and strength we lay,
On this sacred Children's Day.

And when our short race is run,
And life's work is all well done,
To each one may Jesus say,
"Welcome! to Eternal Day."

THE WORLD IS OUR FIELD.

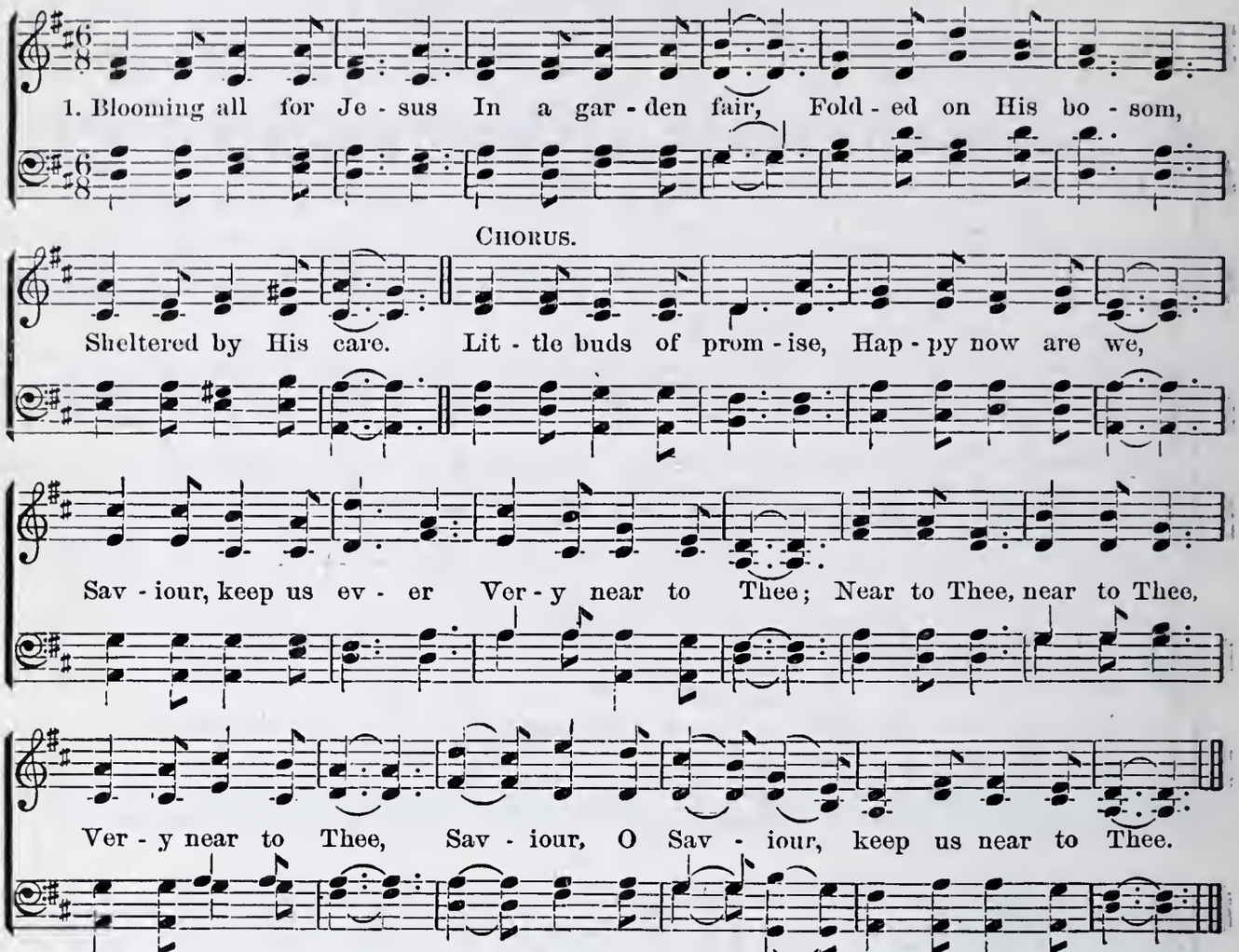
From the "Singing Pilgrim." T. C. O'KANE.

1. Our field is the world, and our work is be - fore us, To each is ap - point-ed a
message to bear; At home or a - broad, in the cottage or pal - ace, Wher-ev - er di -
CHORUS.
rect - ed, our mis - sion is there. The field is the world! The field is the
world! Look up, for the har - vest is near; When the reap - ers from
glo - ry Will shout as they come, And the Lord of the har - vest ap - pear.

2 Our field is the world, and our work is before us,
To each is appointed a message to bear;
At home or abroad, in the cottage or palace,
Wherever directed, our mission is there.
Chorus.

3 Perhaps we are called from the highways and hedges,
To gather the lowly, despised, and oppressed;
If this be our duty, then why should we falter?
We'll do it, and trust to our Saviour the rest.
Chorus.

4 O'er islands that sleep in the wave-crested ocean,
We'll scatter the truth, and its fruit it shall bear;
O'er ice-covered regions and rock-girded mountains
The Lord will protect as his children are there.
Chorus.

5 Instead of the thorn shall the myrtle be planted;
The desert shall blossom and bloom as the rose;
The palm-tree, rejoicing, shall spread forth her branches;
The lamb and the lion together repose.
Chorus.

C. K. **LITTLE BUDS OF PROMISE.** Mrs. Jos. F. Knapp.

1. Blooming all for Je - sus In a gar - den fair, Fold - ed on His bo - som,
Chorus.
Sheltered by His care. Lit - tle buds of prom - ise, Hap - py now are we,
Sav - iour, keep us ev - er Ver - y near to Thee; Near to Thee, near to Thee,
Ver - y near to Thee, Sav - iour, O Sav - iour, keep us near to Thee.

2 We would shine for Jesus,
Don't you think we may,
Like the pretty sunbeams
Shining on our way?—*Chorus.*

3 We can work for Jesus,
He has told us so,
We can scatter sunshine
Every-where we go.—*Chorus.*

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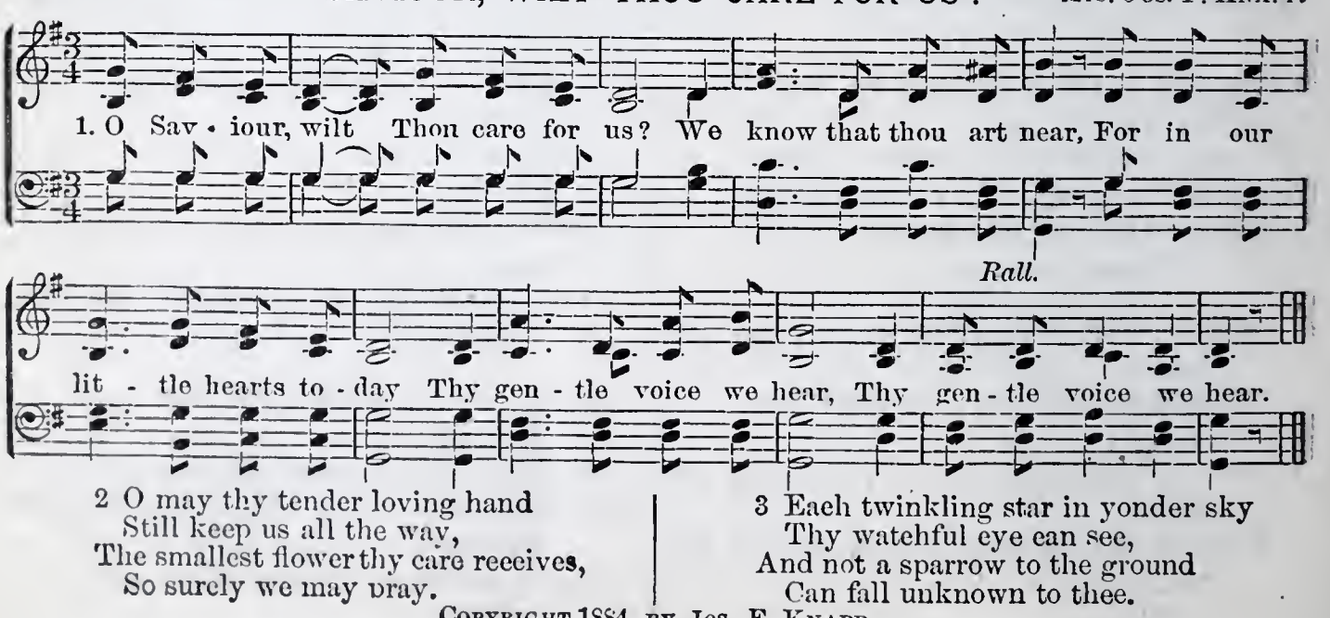
RECITATION.

Yes, friends, we have a mission, too,
A place to work as well as you.
Our little *feet* can learn to tread
Wherever by the Saviour led.
Our *hands* can work, our tongues can sing,
Our *hearts* can love the children's King.
Our *eyes*, that sparkle with delight,
Can make *sad* homes with pleasure bright.
Now let us *clasp* our *hands to* pray,
Dear Saviour, hear the words we say.

C. K. **SAVIOUR, WILT THOU CARE FOR US?** Mrs. Jos. F. Knapp.


1. O Sav - iour, wilt Thou care for us? We know that thou art near, For in our
Rall.
lit - tle hearts to - day Thy gen - tle voice we hear, Thy gen - tle voice we hear.

2 O may thy tender loving hand
Still keep us all the way,
The smallest flower thy care receives,
So surely we may pray.

3 Each twinkling star in yonder sky
Thy watchful eye can see,
And not a sparrow to the ground
Can fall unknown to thee.

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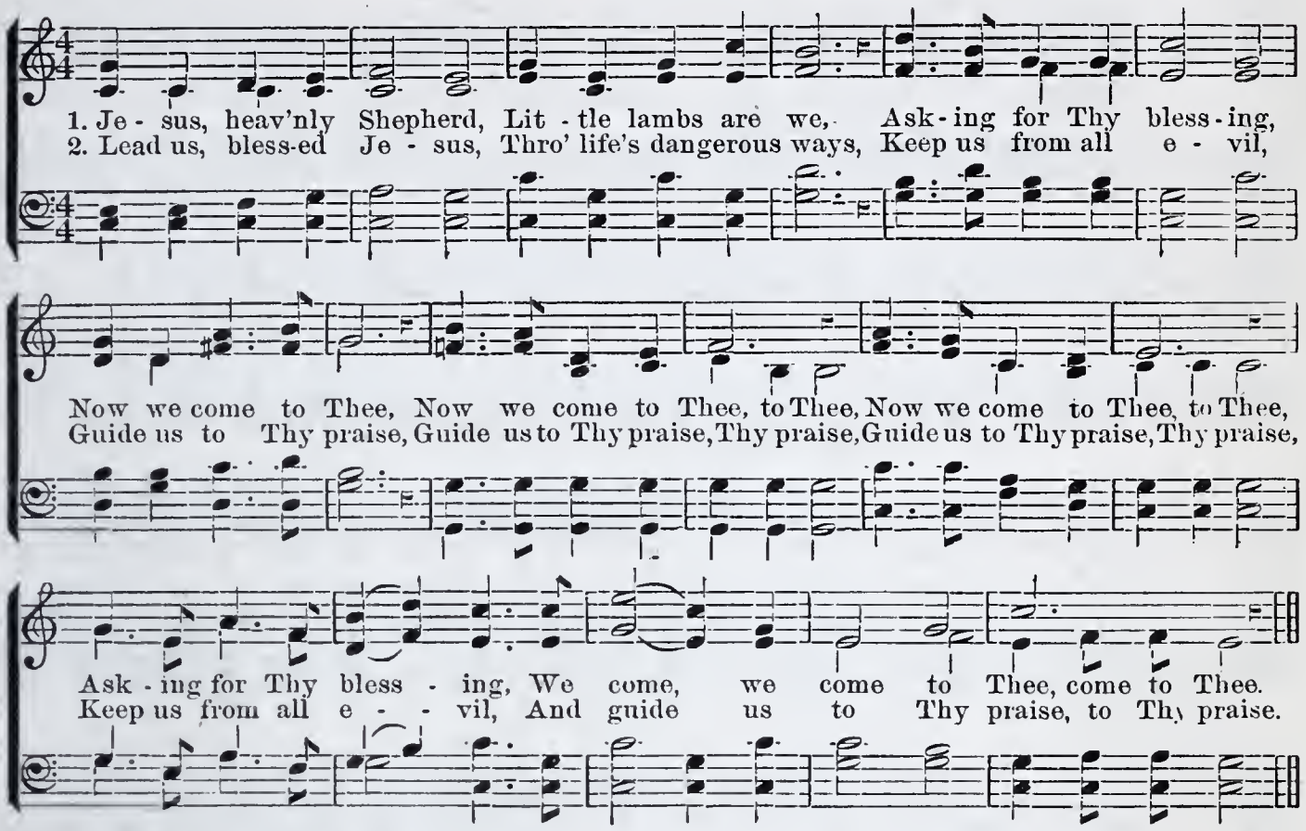
LITTLE LAMBS ARE WE.

Mrs. Mary D. James. Mrs. Jos. F. Knapp.


1. Je - sus, heav'nly Shepherd, Lit - tle lambs are we, Ask - ing for Thy bless - ing,
2. Lead us, bless-ed Je - sus, Thro' life's dangerous ways, Keep us from all e - vil,
Now we come to Thee, Now we come to Thee, to Thee, Now we come to Thee, to Thee,
Guide us to Thy praise, Guide us to Thy praise, Thy praise, Guide us to Thy praise, Thy praise,
Ask - ing for Thy bless - ing, We come, we come to Thee, come to Thee.
Keep us from all e - - vil, And guide us to Thy praise, to Thy praise.

3 Keep our feet from straying
In the paths of sin;
Fit us for thy kingdom,
Let us enter in.

4 There in endless glory,
May we see thy face;
Ever more adore thee
Singing endless praise.

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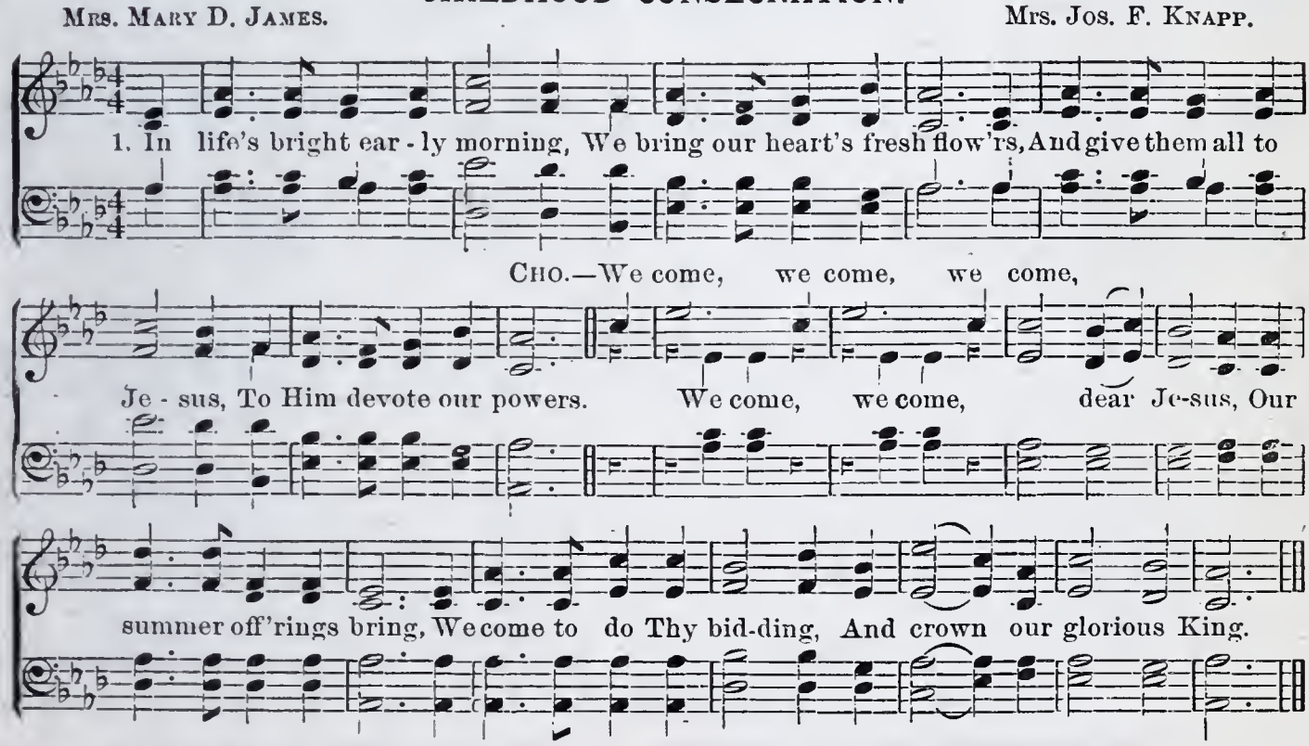
CHILDHOOD CONSECRATION.

Mrs. Mary D. James. Mrs. Jos. F. Knapp.


1. In life's bright ear - ly morning, We bring our heart's fresh flow'rs, And give them all to
Cho.—We come, we come, we come,
Je - sus, To Him devote our powers. We come, we come, dear Je-sus, Our
summer off'rings bring, We come to do Thy bid-ding, And crown our glorious King.

2 He loves a youthful offering,
Of buds and opening bloom,
We give Him summer blossoms
Of rich and rare perfume.—*Chorus.*

3 The rose's charming beauty,
The lily's spotless white,
Our purest, best affections,
These are His great delight.—*Chorus.*

4 And He will give us treasures
Worth more than gems or gold.
O rich exchange! more precious
Than all that earth can hold.—*Chorus.*

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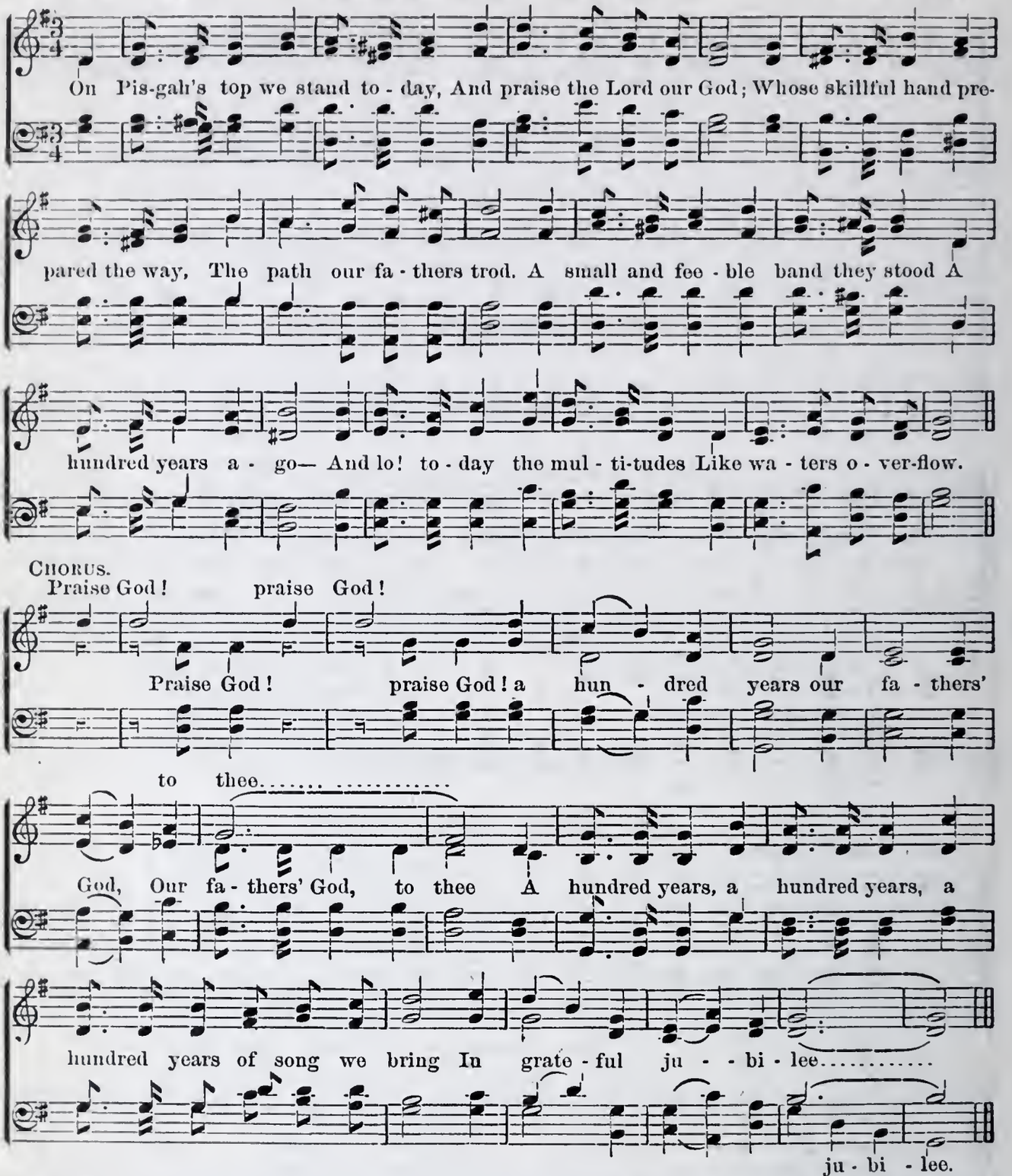
Rev. F. Bottome, D.D. **THE CENTURY'S OUTLOOK.** John R. Sweney.

On Pis-gah's top we stand to-day, And praise the Lord our God; Whose skillful hand pre-
pared the way, The path our fa-thers trod. A small and fee-ble band they stood A
hundred years a-go— And lo! to-day the mul-ti-tudes Like wa-ters o-ver-flow.
Chorus.
Praise God! praise God!
Praise God! praise God! a hun-dred years our fa-thers'
to thee.
God, Our fa-thers' God, to thee A hundred years, a hundred years, a
hundred years of song we bring In grate-ful ju--bi-lee.
ju-bi-lee.

2 From north to south, from east to west,
How spreads the mighty host!
The song that rises in our breast
Is sung on every coast.
Yet loud and louder let it rise,
Around, above, below,
The joyful song our fathers sung
A hundred years ago.—*Chorus.*

3 Now rising from the bended knee
Beneath the heaven's blue dome,
We'll speed the voice of jubilee
A hundred years to come;
And children's children still shall rise,
Their fathers' God to bless,
And long as bend the listening skies,
Proclaim his righteousness.—*Chorus.*

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CHILDREN'S BENEFITS AND OFFERINGS. (Tune, Missionary Hymn, Hymnal, p. 344.)

By G. E. Strobridge, D.D.

1 All hail! sweet day of flowers,
Of birds, and children's song!
Flow on, ye happy hours,
And still our joys prolong.
As through the heavens o'er us,
The sun pursues his way,
We'll raise the thrilling chorus—
Be glad! 'tis Children's Day!

2 To open founts of learning,
Our Church invites her youth;
From sin and error turning,
She bids them gain the truth.
Then crowd the school and college,
Heed Wisdom's beck'ning ray;
O may a thirst for knowledge
Be roused this Children's Day!

3 Not songs alone, but giving,
Will Jesus's smile secure;
In this like him we're living
Who for our sakes was poor.
We offer now our treasure,
And on his altar lay
Both hearts and gifts with pleasure,
On this our Children's Day.

CENTENARY PROGRAMME

FOR

CHILDREN'S DAY, 1884.

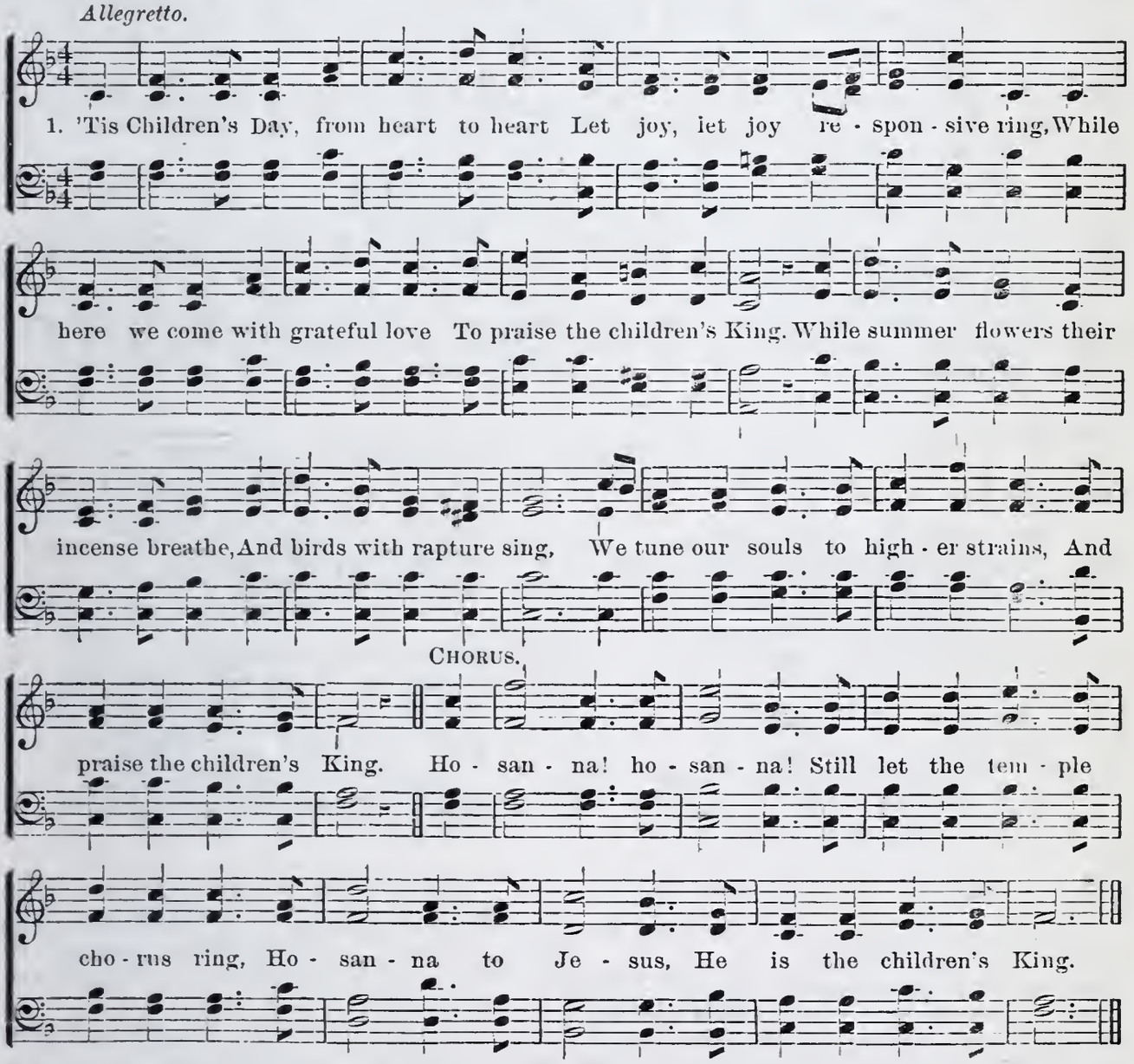
PREPARED BY REV. D. P. KIDDER, *of New York.*

ASSISTED BY REV. C. W. TANEYHILL, *of the Central Ohio Conference,*
and REV. PAGE MILBURN, *of the Baltimore Conference.*

N. B.—All the hymns printed in this programme have been written expressly for it and are essential to its completeness. If, in any instance, they cannot be sung, let them be effectively read or recited.

INTRODUCTORY HYMN.

C. K. **CHILDREN'S DAY.** Mrs. Jos. F. KNAPP.

Allegretto.

1. 'Tis Children's Day, from heart to heart Let joy, let joy re - spon - sive ring, While
here we come with grateful love To praise the children's King. While summer flowers their
incense breathe, And birds with rapture sing, We tune our souls to high - er strains, And
CHORUS.
praise the children's King. Ho - san - na! ho - san - na! Still let the tem - ple
cho - rus ring, Ho - san - na to Je - sus, He is the children's King.

2 For smiling hills where stately trees
Their shade, their cooling shade expand;
For brooks that course through meadows green,
And glide on every hand.
For founts of knowledge purer far
Than rill or mountain spring,
For wisdom's light our steps to guide,
We praise the children's King.—*Chorus.*

3 Be ours the faith of those who toiled
The seed of grace, of grace to sow,
And planted here the Church we love
A hundred years ago.
A Church that now is marching on,
Whose songs the millions sing;
For this we shout aloud for joy,
And praise the children's King.—*Chorus.*

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Part I.—A GLANCE AT THE PAST.

PRAYER.

The Church.

RESPONSIVE READING.

Leader.—How amiable *are* thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts!

Children and Congregation.—My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

L.—Yea, the sparrow hath found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

C.—Blessed *are* they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee.

L.—Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces: that ye may tell it to the generation following.

C.—Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

L.—We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

C.—That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

L.—Of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the Highest himself shall establish her.

C.—Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined.

L.—The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth, from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the Lord.

C.—How shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach, except they be sent?

L.—And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers: for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.

C.—The Lord hath done great things for us: whereof we are glad.

L.—Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone.

HYMN.

THE CHURCH'S JUBILEE.

By Rev. George Lansing Taylor, D.D. Tune, "Webb." "Hymnal," p. 209.

To-day we come with singing,
And hearts and voices raise,
Our joyful tribute bringing
To Christ, in hymns of praise.
To-day we come with flowers,
And buds and blossoms gay,
And garland Zion's towers,
For this is Children's Day.

To-day the Church rejoices,
And birds pour forth their song,
And children's thrilling voices
The joyful strains prolong.
Our gifts and hearts, in gladness,
Before the Lord we lay;
Away with gloom and sadness,
For this is Children's Day.

O Thou who, once to Zion,
Rode on, 'mid waving palms,
And raptures swelling high on
The holy sound of psalms,—
The children then stood nighest,
And still our palms we bring;
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna to our King!

HISTORICAL.

Children and Teachers.—How may the true churches of God be known?

Leader.—The Master said: Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

C. and T.—Have Christian churches ever become corrupt?

L.—Unhappily, large bodies calling themselves churches have denied God's word to the people, and even burned its sacred pages. They have also thrust into prisons and burned at the stake men, women, and children who have periled their lives for the love of God's word.

S. S.—What has God done in times of superstition, persecution, and ignorance to rescue his Church from evil influences and make her a praise in the earth?

L.—In periods of Jewish apostasy, he raised up holy prophets, and, finally, the Lord Jesus, to purify and re-establish his Church. In the days of Romish darkness he raised up Luther to unchain the Bible, and in a period of great deadness in the Church of England and elsewhere, he raised up Wesley to infuse new life into formal churches in all parts of the world.

S. S.—What have the people of the United States gained by the Wesleyan reformation?

L.—As early as 1766 Mr. Wesley's mission-

aries began preaching on these shores a free and full salvation. In 1784, one hundred years ago, they organized the Methodist Episcopal Church and ordained Francis Asbury bishop—the first Christian bishop consecrated on American soil.

S. S.—Has this Church produced fruits worthy of Him whom she claims as her living Head?

L.—From the first till now she has been an apostolic Church, sending her ministers to preach the Gospel to the settlers of the frontiers, to the poor of both city and country, and to the heathen at home and abroad. She has also been a revival Church, seeking and promoting the immediate conversion of both high and low, rich and poor, bond and free.

S. S.—Have her efforts for these objects been owned of God?

L.—Great and glorious have been the fruits of her work in extending the kingdom of Christ. No mortal can determine the number of souls that have been saved through her agency, or measure the power of her influence in quickening and planting other churches. Her best fruits are already garnered in heaven, through the happy death of unnumbered thousands who have passed into the ranks of the Church triumphant.

S. S.—But what are some of the fruits that remain?

L.—They are represented not merely by our one million of Church communicants and five millions of Church attendants, but in certain great departments of Church work, such as Sunday-schools, educational enterprises, church building, and missions, each of which is entitled to a brief notice to-day.

THE CHURCH'S CENTENNIAL HYMN. 1784–1884.

"*A little child shall lead them.*"

By Rev. F. Bottome, D.D.

Tune, "Auld Lang Syne," or any C. M. tune that may be preferred.

A hundred years ago! how strange
To look back o'er the way,
And mark the sure advancing change
From darkness into day.

Slow rising in the eastern sky
Our fathers hailed the sun;
But saw not in their glad surprise
What wonders had begun.

The golden stairs let down from heaven
Were broader than they knew;
The promise to the fathers given
Belonged to children, too.

And soon the little one became
An army great and strong;
And, like a quickly spreading flame,
Filled all the land with song.

To-day the Church's symbol stands
A child, with mystic cord,
Leading the throngs, through all the lands,
To see and fear the Lord.

DOCTRINAL.

S. S.—By what agency has our Church been able to win such glorious fruits for her divine Lord?

L.—By the faithful and earnest declaration of Gospel truth, which is the appointed means of making men free from sin and the servants of God.

S. S.—What are the leading features of that truth?

L.—They have their origin in the unmerited love of God, which is the great source of human salvation.

S. S.—For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—John iii, 16.

L.—Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.—1 John iv, 10.

S. S.—For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.—Rom. iii, 23.

L.—If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—1 John i, 9.

S. S.—What must I do to be saved?—Acts xvi, 30.

L.—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.—Acts xvi, 31.

S. S.—Jesus said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.—John iii, 3.

L.—By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.—Eph. ii, 8.

S. S.—There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.—Rom. viii, 1.

L.—For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.—Rom. viii, 14.

S. S.—The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.—Rom. viii, 16.

L.—The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.—Gal. v, 22, 23.

S. S.—If these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.—2 Peter i, 8.

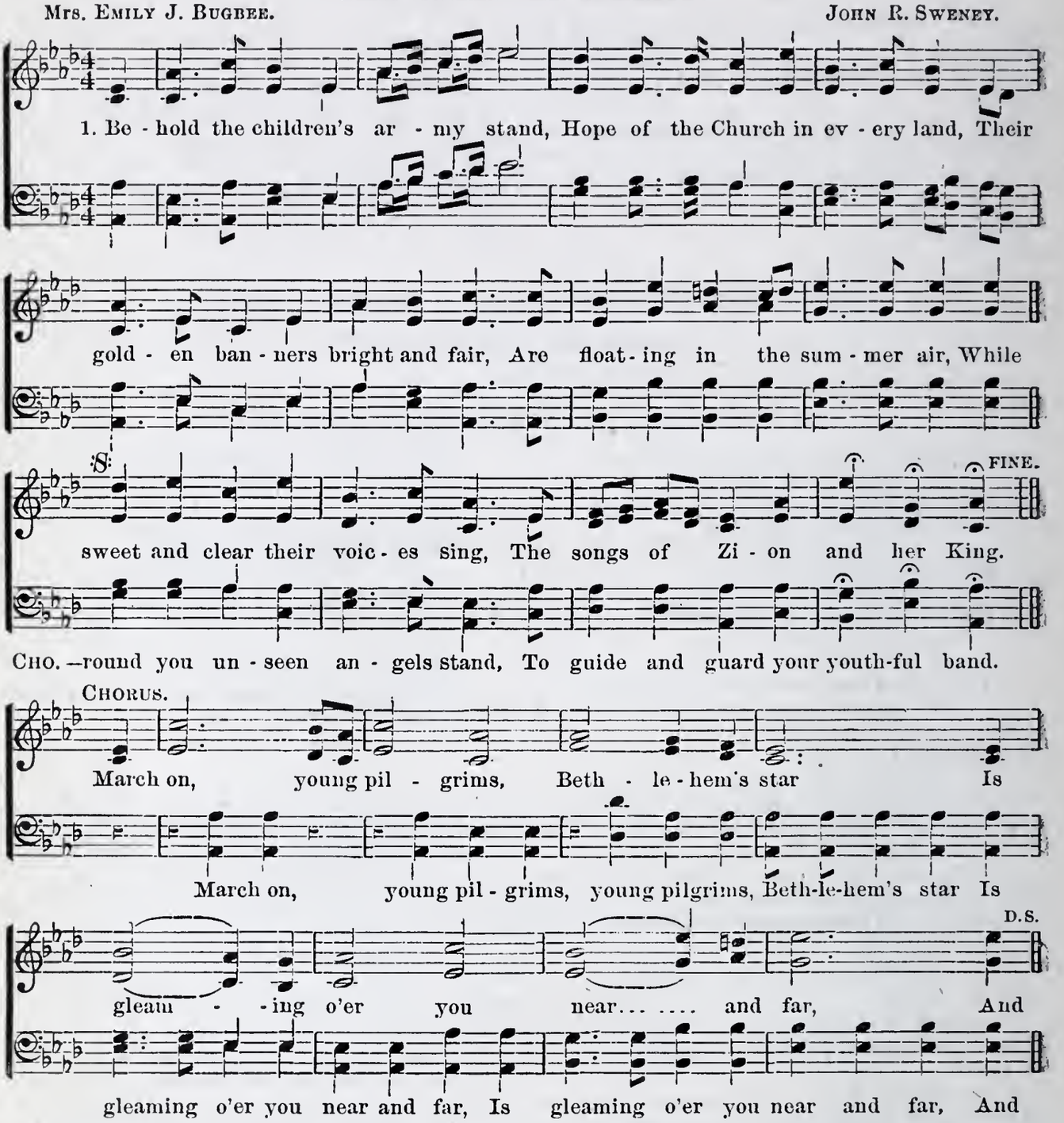
All.—Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.—Jude 24, 25.

Part II.—A SURVEY OF THE PRESENT.

Sunday-schools and Education.

SINGING.

THE CHILDREN'S ARMY.

Mrs. Emily J. Bugbee. John R. Sweney.

1. Be - hold the children's ar - my stand, Hope of the Church in ev - ery land, Their
gold - en ban - ners bright and fair, Are float - ing in the sum - mer air, While
S.
FINE.
sweet and clear their voic - es sing, The songs of Zi - on and her King.
Cho.—round you un - seen an - gels stand, To guide and guard your youth-ful band.
Chorus.
March on, young pil - grims, Beth - le - hem's star Is
March on, young pil - grims, young pilgrims, Beth-le-hem's star Is
D.S.
gleam - - ing o'er you near.... and far, And
gleaming o'er you near and far, Is gleaming o'er you near and far, And

2 O Church of Christ! behold to you
This trust is given, guard it true;
And since in Zion's courts they stand,
Be faithful to your Lord's command.
Sleep not upon your vantage ground,
For wily foes are lurking round.—*Cho.*

3 Let their young feet go not astray,
Teach them to walk the narrow way,
Make wise their tender hearts with truth,
That choosing wisdom in their youth,
Their after years in knowledge fair
May well reward the Church's care.—*Cho.*

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SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

S. S.—What great element in God's plan for saving the world was long overlooked by Christian churches?

L.—That which was foretold in prophecy in the promise that "a little child shall lead them," and indicated by Christ when he said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not," and also when he gave the great command, "Feed my lambs."

S. S.—Who were the leading agents in awakening modern churches to the importance of Sunday-schools?

L.—Robert Raikes and John Wesley in England, and Bishop Asbury in America. The latter founded the first Sunday-school in the United States, of which there is authentic record, in 1786, the Church Discipline adopted in 1784 having provided for such schools.

S. S.—How many Sunday-schools has our Church to-day?

L.—Twenty-one thousand four hundred.

S. S.—How many scholars are enrolled in those schools?

L.—One million seven hundred and ninety-six thousand.

S. S.—How many officers and teachers are enlisted for their instruction?

L.—Two hundred and twenty-nine thousand five hundred.

S. S.—What is the strength of our Sunday-school army as a whole?

L.—Two millions twenty-five thousand and five hundred.

S. S.—Besides the scriptural knowledge secured and taught, how many conversions have taken place in connection with our Sunday-schools?

L.—More than eighty thousand during the last year.

S. S.—Has not our Church been greatly indebted to Sunday-schools for her constant growth?

L.—No Church could have grown so rapidly and so steadily that neglected the Saviour's teachings in behalf of children, and it is worthy of special note that our Church's increase, from year to year, has corresponded very closely to the number of conversions in her Sunday-schools.

S. S.—Does not our Church, like her Lord and Head, take a special interest in very little children?

L.—She claims that they should be consecrated to Christ in holy baptism in their early infancy, and that, as soon as of their own choice they wish to do so, they should be enrolled among her members. She now has enrolled in her Infant School department more than three hundred and sixty-one thousand.

S. S.—May not *our* infant scholars have a part in the exercises of Children's Day?

Exercises by the Infant Class.

SONG.

C. K. **LITTLE BUDS OF PROMISE.***

1 Blooming all for Jesus
In a garden fair,
Folded on his bosom,
Sheltered by his care.

Chorus.—Little buds of promise,
Happy now are we,
Saviour, keep us ever
Very near to Thee;
Near to Thee, near to Thee,
Very near to Thee,
Saviour, O Saviour,
Keep us near to Thee.

2 We would shine for Jesus,
Don't you think we may,
Like the pretty sunbeams
Shining on our way?

Chorus.

3 We can work for Jesus,
He has told us so,
We can scatter sunshine
Every-where we go.

Chorus.

C. K. **RECITATION.**

Yes, friends, we have a mission, too,
A place to work as well as you.
Our little *feet* can learn to tread
Wherever by the Saviour led;
Our *hands* can work, our tongues can sing,
Our *hearts* can love the children's King;
Our *eyes* that sparkle with delight,
Can make *sad* homes with pleasure bright.
Now let us *clasp* our *hands* to pray,
Dear Saviour, hear the words we say.

C. K. **SAVIOUR, WILT THOU CARE FOR US?***

1 O Saviour, wilt thou care for us?
We know that thou art near,
For in our little hearts to-day
Thy gentle voice we hear.
Thy gentle voice we hear.

2 O may thy tender loving hand
Still keep us all the way,
The smallest flower thy care receives,
So surely we may pray.
(*Repeat last line.*)

3 Each twinkling star in yonder sky
Thy watchful eye can see,
And not a sparrow to the ground
Can fall unknown to thee.
(*Repeat last line.*)

* For Music, see page 46, "Manual of Hints and Helps for Children's Day."

HIGHER EDUCATION.

S. S.—Has our Church gone beyond Sunday-schools in providing for the education of her children and youth?

L.—At her very origin she founded a college, and, for successive years, Bishop Asbury toiled for its support and endowment.

S. S.—Were not great difficulties encountered in educational efforts at that early period?

L.—The country was new and poor following the war of the Revolution. Besides, our first college was twice burned to the ground by accident. Nevertheless, some years later our Church fathers rallied again, and commenced educational work on a much larger scale.

S. S.—What educational institutions had the Church at the beginning of this Centenary year?

L.—About one hundred and fifty in all, embracing classical seminaries, female colleges, colleges and universities, medical schools, law schools, and theological schools.

S. S.—How much have these institutions cost?

L.—Over and above all existing debts and many losses by fire and mismanagement, their property and endowments are to-day worth about fifteen millions of dollars.

S. S.—How many teachers and students have they?

L.—Over thirteen hundred teachers and twenty-six thousand students, with room for many more. They have already given instruction to more than four hundred thousand students, and, during the century about to open, they ought to instruct millions.

S. S.—In what ways are their ranks to be recruited?

L.—Largely from our Sunday-schools. Christian boys and girls every-where should consider themselves invited to come up into the higher walks of learning and become qualified to do the greatest possible good in every sphere of life.

S. S.—Can they easily do this?

L.—Not without effort. But the very effort will develop their manhood and womanhood. They will also encourage their parents and friends, and, if necessary, the Church to help them.

S. S.—What plan has the Church for helping the poorer youth who have grown up in her Sunday-schools, when they wish to study in her higher institutions?

L.—Besides a general educational fund, she has raised a Children's Educational Fund, which is designed to be increased by the offerings of each successive Children's Day.

S. S.—How many have been helped by this fund already?

L.—More than one thousand, in eighty different institutions of learning. Most of these a few years ago were Sunday-school scholars.

S. S.—Have they shown themselves able to do any good in the world?

L.—While many of them have not yet finished their courses of study, it is known that at least two hundred have already entered some sixty of our Annual Conferences as traveling preachers, and about thirty have become foreign missionaries in Bulgaria, India, Japan, Mexico, and South America, while others have become teachers and professional men.

S. S.—Are there any more needing help in this way?

L.—Never before was the demand for help so great and so urgent. From east to west, from north to south, and from our mission fields all around the world the cry comes to our Board of Education for help to educate Christian youth, and it is hoped that the offerings of this day and of the Centenary year may greatly increase its power for responding to the call.

SINGING.

THE CHILDREN'S OFFERING.

REV. GEO. LANSING TAYLOR, D.D. Tune, "Webb." "Hymnal," p. 345.

To-day for CHRISTIAN LEARNING
The children's offering swells,
To aid young spirits yearning
To drink from wisdom's wells;
For CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
We toil with heart and hand,
The hope of church and nation,
The day-star of our land.

Spring up, O fount of knowledge!
A fountain sealed no more;
Throw wide, O school and college,
Throw wide your every door!

The children's dimes and dollars
Shall storm your classic gates,
And help the humblest scholars
Who throng where learning waits.

And Wisdom's sons and daughters,
Who heed her voice in youth,
Shall drink the living waters
Of pure eternal truth;
And science, song, and story
Shall build Immanuel's road,
And help to spread his glory,
And take the world for God.

COLLECTION FOR THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL FUND.

PRESENTATION OF HISTORIC CENTENARY MEDALS.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR MORE MEDALS.

Part III.—AN OUTLOOK ON THE FUTURE.

SINGING.

THE CENTURY'S OUTLOOK.*

Rev. F. Bottome, D.D.

On Pisgah's top we stand to-day,
And praise the Lord our God;
Whose skillful hand prepared the way,
The path our fathers' trod,
A small and feeble band they stood
A hundred years ago—
And lo! to-day the multitudes
Like waters overflow.
Chorus.—Praise God! Praise God!
A hundred years our fathers' God,
Our fathers' God, to thee
A hundred years of song we bring
In grateful jubilee.

From north to south, from east to west,
How spreads the mighty host!
The song that rises in our breast
Is sung on every coast.
Yet loud and louder let it rise,
Around, above, below,
The joyful song our fathers sung
A hundred years ago.—*Chorus.*

Now rising from the bended knee
Beneath the heaven's blue dome,
We'll speed the voice of jubilee
A hundred years to come;
And children's children still shall rise,
Their fathers' God to bless,
And long as bend the listening skies,
Proclaim his righteousness.—*Chorus.*

Church Work and Prospects.

CHURCH BUILDING AND THE SUPPLY OF MINISTERS.

S. S.—Had our fathers, at the beginning of this century, many churches in which to preach the Gospel?

L.—Only a few, and those very small and cheap. Our early ministers preached in private houses, log school-houses, barns, and, like the apostles themselves, wherever they could find opportunity.

S. S.—Were the people content with this state of things?

L.—They every-where began building churches as fast as they were able.

S. S.—How many different church buildings had we at the end of 1883, and what was their value?

L.—More than eighteen thousand churches, worth over sixty-five millions of dollars.

S. S.—Are these sufficient for the wants of our people?

L.—As population increases, new churches are needed in all parts of our land, both in our oldest cities and throughout our vast and ever extending frontier.

S. S.—By what agency can we hope to keep pace with the growing demand?

L.—Through the Church Extension Society helping the people every-where to help themselves. By these joint efforts we are now building about two churches a day and hope soon to build three a day.

S. S.—Will the building of more churches accomplish the work to which we are called?

L.—Church building is only a means to the higher end of preaching the Gospel to the masses of our growing population, and also to teaching their children in Sunday-schools.

S. S.—How shall the coming millions of our country hear the Gospel without preachers?

L.—"How shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"—Rom. x, 15.

S. S.—If God calls the preachers what has the Church to do for them?

L.—Her duty is to train, encourage, and support them, for "the laborer is worthy of his hire." It is also the duty of the Church to pray the Lord of the harvest "that he would send forth more laborers into his harvest."

S. S.—Where may the Church most hopefully look for her future supply of ministers and teachers?

L.—To the youth of her Sunday-schools, to many of whom the Spirit of the Lord is already given, prompting them to devote their lives to his service.

S. S.—Are there any hinderances in the way?

L.—The spirit of the age is worldly, and the danger is that many will be led astray by the ambition of money-making and worldly distinction. On the other hand, seeing what has been accomplished from small beginnings during the century past, there is good hope that, with the grand organization and multiplied agencies of the present, we may more than keep pace with the increasing demands of the future.

SINGING.

CHILDHOOD CONSECRATION.†

Mrs. Mary D. James.

In life's bright early morning,
We bring our hearts' fresh flowers,
And give them all to Jesus,
To Him devote our powers.
Chorus.—We come, we come, dear Jesus,
Our summer off'rings bring,
We come to do Thy bidding,
And crown our glorious King.

He loves a youthful offering,
Of buds and opening bloom,
We give Him summer blossoms
Of rich and rare perfume.—*Chorus.*

The rose's charming beauty,
The lily's spotless white,
Our purest, best affections,
These are his great delight.—*Chorus.*

And He will give us treasures
Worth more than gems or gold.
O rich exchange! more precious
Than all that earth can hold.—*Chorus.*

* For Music, see p. 48 "Manual of Hints and Helps for Children's Day." † Ibid., p. 47.

MISSIONS AND THE WORLD'S CONVERSION.

S. S.—Should the Church content herself with preaching the Gospel at home?

L.—The command of the Master is, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.

S. S.—Into what foreign countries has our Church gone in obedience to this command?

L.—Into Africa, Italy, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, India, Burmah, China, Japan, Mexico, and South America.

S. S.—Who are her missionaries in these great fields?

L.—In most cases the converted, grown-up, and educated youth of her Sunday-schools, and many more such are wanted, for the vast fields of the world are white for the harvest, and "the laborers are few."

S. S.—Has Children's Day any bearing upon Christ's great plan for the conversion of the world?

L.—It is a happy omen that great numbers of children in all the countries named are to-day joining with us to crown the Lord Jesus as their King.

S. S.—Is it not to be hoped that many of the children in all those countries will be called of God to become preachers of the Gospel and teachers of his truth to all the people of their native lands?

L.—This hope is already being extensively realized, and it is to be expected that each succeeding Children's Day will add to the prospect of its larger fulfillment.

S. S.—Will there be any thing left for us to do?

L.—Missionaries in great numbers will still be wanted to go to heathen lands to aid and guide the work of evangelization at least for a long time to come.

S. S.—Is there good hope of ultimate success in establishing Christianity in all nations?

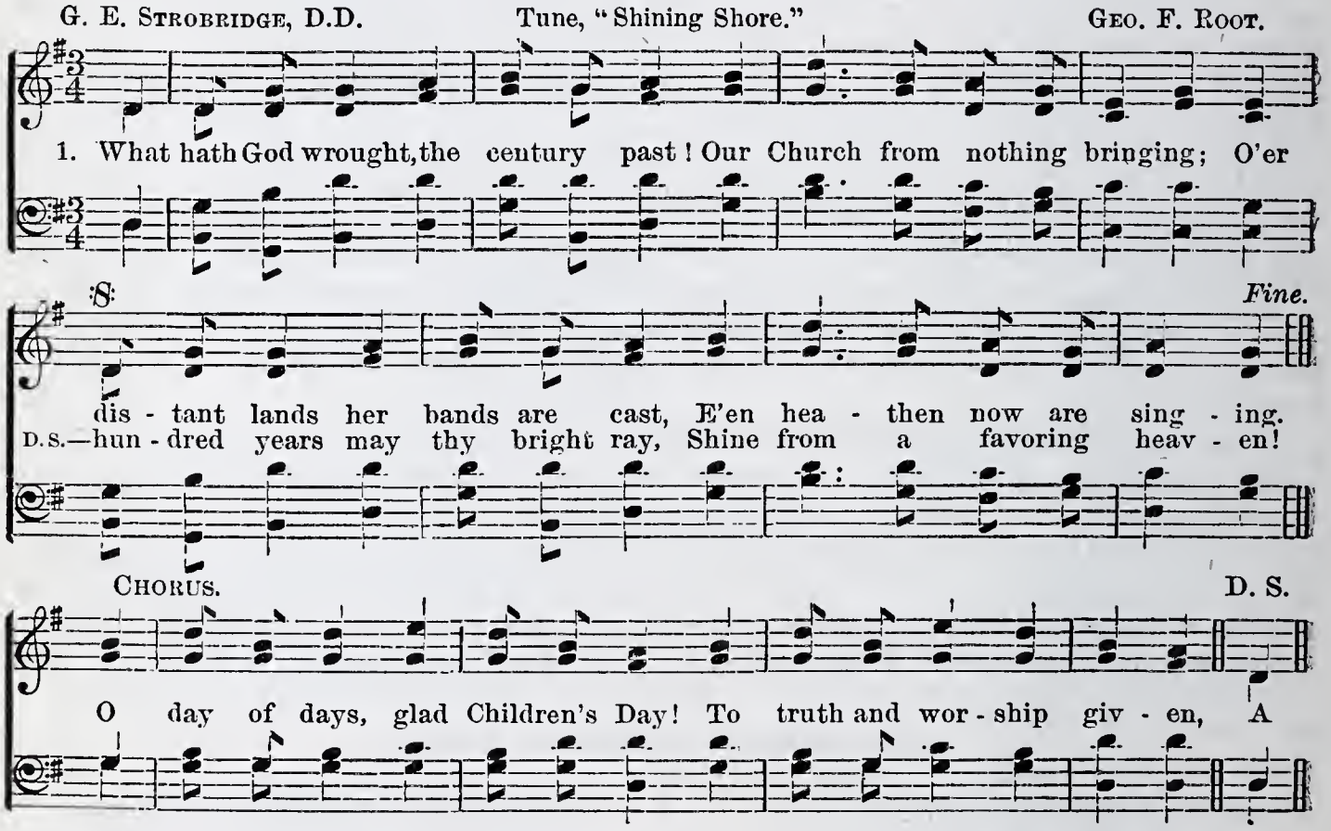
L.—Not only so; but of rapidly hastening that event. Considering what has been accomplished in less than a century past, and the facilities now organized, there is good reason to hope that the coming century will be one of great progress toward the fulfillment of the glorious prophecies which have so long foretold the time when the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea, and when "the stone cut out of the mountain without hands shall fill the whole earth."

All.—May God hasten that glorious time, and help us do our part toward speedily bringing it in!

SINGING.

CHILDREN'S CENTENNIAL.

G. E. Strobridge, D.D. Tune, "Shining Shore." Geo. F. Root.


1. What hath God wrought, the century past! Our Church from nothing bringing; O'er
dis - tant lands her bands are cast, E'en hea - then now are sing - ing.
D.S.—hun - dred years may thy bright ray, Shine from a favoring heav - en!
Fine.
Chorus.
D. S.
O day of days, glad Children's Day! To truth and wor - ship giv - en, A

2 "A feeble folk" to thousands grown,
What tribute can we render?
We've much received; the debt we own,
And offerings large would tender.—*Chorus.*

3 We all would cheerful givers be,
And bringing now our treasure,
We hope to see fair learning's tree
Bear fruit in grander measure.—*Chorus.*

4 God bless our Church while time shall last,
Save her from fear or doubting,
And when another century's past,
May children still be shouting. *Chorus.*

*** If this part of the programme is used for a second or third service, let the Collection for the Children's Educational Fund and the subscription for the Centenary Medals precede or follow the above hymn.

DOXOLOGY.

BENEDICTION.

LAST WORDS.

In view of the importance of the Centenary Programme for Children's Day, 1884, it has been thought well to embody the foregoing specimen copy in the presentation copies of the MANUAL. It can thus be preserved, not only for examination prior to Children's Day, but as a historical memorandum for future reference. In like manner the text of the Children's Red Letter (minus the vignette) is subjoined, and also that of the Order Sheet.

Letter to the Children and Youth of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dear Young Friends: Our Church invites you this year to lead the advance in the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of her organization.

Children's Day will come on Sunday, the 8th of June. Its observance will be the first great event after the adjournment of the General Conference. In an important sense, it will close up one century of Church effort and open another. It will be the first Centenary Children's Day ever observed, and none of us will live to see another. Let us, then, make it an occasion of which those who come after us, in 1984, will read with pleasure and profit. How may this be done?

1. By all taking a part in the services—from the East to the West, from the North to the South, from Mexico and South America, from Africa, from Europe, from India, from China, and from Japan.

2. By making timely and thorough preparation; that is, by learning well the new and beautiful hymns and music that have been written specially for the occasion, and also by preparing to read well and remember long the lessons of Scripture and of fact which have been placed in the programme.

3. By making a handsome offering to the Children's Educational Fund, by which many of you will be benefited a few years hence, and others after you during the ages to come.

4. By securing, as many of you as can, the Centenary Historic Medal, to be handed down to future generations. Knowing the difficulties of procuring or even seeing some of the historic medals of past ages, we are anxious that there may be no scarcity of these medals a hundred years from now. In this view, and also because every one issued will add something to the Children's Educational Fund, we would be glad to have at least 500,000 go into the families to which you belong all over the world. In itself, this Centenary Medal is a thing of beauty. It is struck on a hard composite metal that will hold well the sharpest lines. It is then gilded with pure gold. But its greatest value consists in its monumental and representative character. It has been well said by one who has seen it that "the medal brings before the mind the pioneer struggles of Francis Asbury and his co-laborers to establish that Methodism which Matthew Simpson represents in his day." It is also an interesting fact that the lives of the two Bishops cover the whole century which is closing, When Bishop Asbury died Matthew Simpson was a boy five years old, who had been baptized by the Bishop. He has now lived to be himself a Bishop, with the world as his parish, for a period of thirty-two years, and is still vigorously and ably leading on the work of the Church. It is, therefore, to be hoped that many of the boys and girls, who in this medal will take Bishop Simpson to their homes, may live to show his face to persons who will participate in the services of the second centennial of our Church's organization.

Testimony from all parts of the United States, and, indeed, from all around the world, proves that our last Children's Day was one of the most enjoyable days of the year. It was every-where pronounced a truly red-letter day. It also exerted a most happy influence on our Sunday-schools, quickening many of them to new life and zeal in the cause of Christian education, besides giving great pleasure to the parents and friends who attended its exercises. Even greater and better things are to be expected this year, since the occasion is more inspiring and the preparations are more complete. We, therefore, desire you to invite all your friends to share it with you, and *as all of them will expect to make some Connectional Centenary gift*, many of them may be

pleased to give through you for the increase of your fund. You can inform them that to the extent they so do they will comply with the *first* recommendation of the whole Board of Bishops of our Church.

Regarding you as the flower and promise of the Church, and looking to you with great hope for the years to come, the BOARD OF EDUCATION sends you its Christian salutations by

D. P. KIDDER, *Cor. Sec.*

805 *Broadway, New York*, 1884.

Order Sheet.

To the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church,
805 Broadway, New York City:

Being desirous of co-operating efficiently in the Children's Day observance of 1884, in accordance with the Disciplinary plan of our Church, and anxious to make our celebration this year worthy of the Centennial period of our Church organization, we desire to use the printed helps offered by the Board of Education. We, therefore, submit the following facts and requests:

1. The average attendance of teachers and scholars in our Sunday-school able to take a part in the responsive readings is.....; therefore please send us.....copies of the CENTENARY PROGRAMME.

2. Wishing also to make use of the LETTER TO THE CHILDREN for....., please also send us.....copies.

In return, we will send you our Children's Day collection at our earliest convenience after it is taken.

Being also desirous of promoting gifts and subscriptions for the CENTENARY HISTORIC MEDAL, in the interest of the Children's Educational Fund, we request you to send....specimens of said medal to the subjoined address, hereby agreeing to pay for the same one dollar each, in addition to our Children's Day collection, and also to promote, by aid of the specimens sent, a canvass for further subscriptions. Signed,

....., Pastor.

....., S. S. Sup't.

Charge, ..., P. Office.

District, ..., County.

Conference, ..., State.

The foregoing documents, taken as a whole and in their proper relations to each other, form a record of generous and enlightened effort in behalf of Christian education, which the Board of Education is willing to submit, not only to the present generation, but to future centuries. It remains to be seen whether the response made to it by our ministers, Sunday-schools, and churches, to be published next year, will be equally creditable to them. We confidently believe that it will be, and, in this expectation, hazard offers of gratuitous supply on a scale never before ventured by any benevolent organization. But this is done in the confidence that our friends will only order as many Programmes and Red Letters as they actually need for the most advantageous use, and also that in consideration of the convenience and saving of outlay to them, they will every-where take pleasure in making a fullness of returns that will amply cover the advance cost of printing and postage incurred by the Board. It is only in the exercise of a confidence so well sustained last year, that the officers of the Board feel justified in assuming a certain expenditure of thousands of dollars to provide for the best working of the Children's Day movement of 1884.

MEDAL CANVASSERS' CERTIFICATES.

[To be cut out separately and pasted at the head of suitable sheets of paper. If more are wanted, write them out or apply to D. P. KIDDER, 805 Broadway, New York.]

CERTIFICATE.

The bearer, ...,

is authorized to collect money for the CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL FUND of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Every payment of one dollar will entitle the giver to the HISTORIC MEDAL commemorating the organization of said Church in 1784 and the celebration of its first Centenary in 1884. The medal bears profiles of Bishops ASBURY and SIMPSON.

Dated ....., 1884.

....., *Pastor.*

....., *S. S. Supt.*

SUBSCRIBERS.

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